MANGO joins global leaders in Iowa to address local challenges. PAGE 6
Guam native urges continued collaboration with Indigenous communities. PAGE 7

Hafa Adai!
$1
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 189
www.saipantribune.com FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2024 www.facebook.com/saipantribune


Tudela

CBP OFFICERS AT ROTA AIRPORT

CPA not party in arrangement

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority says although it sympathizes with the people of Rota—who may be losing direct flight service to Guam—the arrangement for U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel at the Rota Internal Airport is not CPA's responsibility.

See CPA on Page 4

Subpoena for IPI 'stalking horse' purchaser invalid

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The attorney for Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's proposed "stalking horse bidder" in the ongoing liquidation process of IPI's hotel-casino has filed a motion asking the U.S. District Court for the NMI to find that the subpoena issued by the CNMI government and creditor Joshua Gray is invalid.

Previously, the CNMI government and Gray, through their respective attorneys, delivered a notice and subpoena to Loi Lam Sit, IPI's proposed "stalking horse bidder" in its motion to liquidate assets, ordering him to appear for a deposition on Sept. 13 and to produce certain documents.

However, the CNMI government and Gray said Sit failed to comply with the subpoenas.

As a result, the parties petitioned the court to issue an order to show cause why

See IPI on Page 4

Early voting for general elections begins

» DPW to begin removal of unpermitted political signs

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Elections Committee has announced that early voting for the upcoming general elections will begin this weekend. Meanwhile, the Department of Public Works warns candidates of the upcoming election that should their political signs along the public right-of-way remain unpermitted, they will be

See EARLY on Page 4

OPA: Of 41 audit recommendations to gov't agencies, 3 were resolved

» But all auditees responded to OPA's request, share corrective actions

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
delatorreferdie@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Of the 41 audit and inspection recommendations that the Office of the Public Auditor had issued to government agencies and tracked as of June 30, 2024, only three were resolved so far.

That's a measly 7.317% resolution rate on OPA's audit and inspection recommendations.

Temporary public auditor Dora I. Deleon

See OPA on Page 4

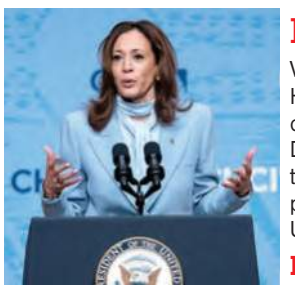
SNILD-SMO MEETING
Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" B. Camacho had a meeting with the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation yesterday morning at the Saipan Mayor's Office conference room. Seated from left, Rep. Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan), Camacho, Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan), and Rep. Denita Yangetmai (D-Saipan). Standing from left, Reps. Malcolm Omar (Ind-Saipan) and John Paul Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Sen. Celina Babauta (D-Saipan), Reps. Joel Camacho (Ind-Saipan) and Manny Castro (D-Saipan), House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Diego Camacho (D-Saipan), House floor leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), and Reps. Thomas Manglona (R-Saipan) and Roy Ada (R-Saipan). **See story on Page 3**
RACQUEL FLOYD



INSIDE



BUSINESS
Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan is excited to announce a range of new updates and special promotions that will elevate your dining experience, whether you're a local or just visiting.
PAGE 13



NATION
Vice President Kamala Harris on Wednesday criticized Republican Donald Trump 's promise to deport millions of people who are in the United States illegally.
PAGE 14



LIFE & STYLE
Sean "Diddy" Combs is staying locked up after a judge Wednesday rejected the hip-hop mogul's proposal that he await his sex trafficking trial in the luxury of his Florida mansion instead of a grim Brooklyn federal jail.
PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

PREMIUM PRE-OWNED CARS

NISSAN · Ford · KIA · HONDA



MONA MENGLOI
Sales Consultant
Visit or call 234-5562

✓ QUALITY ✓ SELECTION ✓ LOW PRICES

NOW $10,995 (was $19,995)

2015 NISSAN QUEST SV
STOCK # F9132367, FWD
Est. Mileage: 105,140, Color: BRILLIANT SILVER

NOW $11,505 (was $12,505)

2017 KIA SOUL LX
STOCK # H7493518, FWD 1.6L, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 59436, Color: RED

NOW $14,005 (was $15,505)

2018 NISSAN ROGUE SPORT S
STOCK # JW151033, FWD, 2.0L, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 72,745, Color: RED

NOW $14,808 (was $15,995)

2017 TOYOTA COROLLA LE
STOCK # HP583300, FWD 4CYL- 1.8L, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 78,202, Color: SUPER WHITE

NOW $17,005 (was $18,505)

2019 HYUNDAI TUCSON SE
STOCK # KU004383, FWD 2.0L, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 34583, Color: GRAY

NOW $17,888 (was $18,995)

2020 NISSAN VERSA SV
STOCK #LL823886, FWD, 1.6L 4CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 29,110, Color: GRAY

NOW $19,505 (was $23,000)

2020 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SPORT
STOCK # LU037795, FWD, 1.6L 4CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 6,810, Color: BLACK

NOW $19,505 (was $20,505)

2018 MAZDA CX5 SPORT
STOCK # J0423663, FWD 2.5L 4CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 33,515, Color: SILVER

NOW $19,888 (was $23,505)

2016 FORD EXPLORER LIMITED
STOCK # GGC52123, AWD 3.5L V6, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 66,677, Color: GRAY

NOW $19,995 (was $21,505)

2018 TOYOTA CAMRY LE
STOCK # JU012062, FWD 2.5L 4CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 40561, Color: GRAY

NOW $21,005 (was $22,888)

2021 HYUNDAI ELANTRA N-LINE
STOCK # MU179212, FWD 1.6L, MANUAL
Est. Mileage: 17869, Color: RED

NOW $23,995 (was $26,995)

2021 KIA SELTOS SX
STOCK # M7072565, AWD, 1.6L 4CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 27,200, Color: BLACK

NOW $25,505 (was $27,995)

2018 HONDA ACCORD TOURING SPORT
STOCK # JA084004, AWD 1.5L, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 46580, Color: GRAY

NOW $25,995 (was $28,995)

2023 NISSAN ROUGE SV
STOCK # PW003849, FWD, 1.5L AUTO
Est. Mileage: 4862, Color: BLUE

NOW $31,495 (was $32,995)

2020 FORD RANGER XL
STOCK # LLA43266,2WD/RWD 2.3L 4CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 20023, Color: WHITE

Joeten Motors POWERED BY YOU

SHOWROOM HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY 8AM - 5PM • SATURDAY 8AM - 12PM

*Some conditions apply, O.A.C., See dealer for details. Vehicle may not be exactly as shown.

Like us on Facebook

Many more used cars in stock to fit your budget & style

Local

Babauta raises concerns with SMO request to keep FTEs

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Sen. Celina Babauta (D-Saipan) questioned the duplication of upkeep services between the Saipan Mayor's Office and Division of Parks & Recreation during Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" B. Camacho's meeting with the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation yesterday morning at the former's conference room.

"The predicament we have in the Legislature is that everybody, all departments are asking for FTEs, and there is absolutely no way. We don't even know where to pull from to give other departments who are much needed," said Babauta.

Her statement was raised after Camacho's chief of staff, Priscilla Iakopo, presented the mayor's office's fiscal year 2024 expenses and fund status.

According to Iakopo, they are facing a $667,000 budget deficit and is requesting SNILD to help retain seven of its employees.

"We're actually in a negative of the $667,000, so we really need your help. This is a true story, OMB (Office of Management and Budget) asked us, give us the names of the seven people that we are not going to include in the budget. I told them right back and I said I will not give you those names because those employees have lives. They have family. I'm not going to be responsible for them not eating, them not being able to have a roof over their heads," said Iakopo.

Camacho also appealed to SNILD that he needs manpower and he cannot afford to lose the seven FTEs.

"You guys all know that we are covering the entire island here. We're not just focusing on the precinct, but we are covering the entire precincts here in the island," he said.

Meanwhile, Babauta suggested collaboration with other agencies like the Department of Public Lands and Parks & Rec through MOUs to optimize resource allocation, alluding to the practice on Tinian and Rota.

"A lot of your services are duplicated and it's redundant with the Department of Public Works and I know your guys take care of the secondary roads and all that. Now we appreciate that...[we've] always been supportive and given the mayor's office funding. But is there any way that you guys can collaborate with DPW and Parks & Rec? All these other duplicated agencies that can assist the mayor's office, whether it's the MOU (memorandum of understanding). Tinian and Rota have been so creative in establishing MOUs between agencies and the mayor's office," said Babauta.

Camacho shared that they are working closely with Parks & Rec but face challenges due to insufficient manpower.

"We're working closely (with Park & Rec and DPW), but they have their own tasks. Parks & Rec, they are also complaining of not having enough manpower to cover all tourist sites," he shared.

The mayor, for example, said that there is a major erosion issue in Micro Beach and the area is in dire need of emergency assistance.

Babauta suggested considering outsourcing projects to local businesses as another option to avoid fuel and maintenance issues, which would benefit the local economy.

In response, Camacho explained his Adopt-A-Place Program, where businesses adopt areas that cannot be accommodated by agencies like Parks & Rec.

The mayor also highlighted the $3.1-million grant the SMO recently received that will help the entire community ease its burden on buying a new power set for street lights on Saipan. He mentioned that they are looking at a 40% drop once the bulbs are installed.

Babauta expressed her frustration with agencies operating in silos, leading to redundancies and inefficiencies.

Camacho suggested doing an inventory of each government agency that gets paid for doing nothing. Babauta then pointed out that Parks & Rec's personnel costs are more than their operation.

According to Camacho, Parks & Rec is subsidized by the Marianas Visitors Authority and DPL to beautify the island's tourist sites.

"They're fortunate enough because there's two agencies pushing them, but the mayor, there's nothing pushing other than to appeal to the local delegation, to make this thing happen," said Camacho.

SNILD chair Rep. John Paul Sablan (Ind-Saipan) thanked the mayor and his staff for the presentation. He then assured the mayor of the Legislature's continued support.

Veterinarian, technician to help Saipan Humane Society

Saipan Humane Society is excited to announce a special event in partnership with Banfield Foundation and Mars Veterinary Health. This clinic, with travel sponsored by Mars Ambassadors Program, will provide a critical care veterinarian and technician to our community from Sept. 23 through Oct. 4. They will be providing essential clinical services, including sick consultations and emergency care for pets in need.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Veterinary criticalist and intern director at Veterinary Centers of America Hospital in New York, Dr. Melissa Salgado, will be visiting Saipan as a part of the Access to Veterinary Care for Island Pets Program on Saipan.

These Mars Ambassador Program participants are veterinary professionals who travel to underserved areas to provide medical care, strengthen local capacity, and support animal welfare initiatives. Mars Veterinary Health sponsors the travel and work costs of their visiting staff to ensure pets and their communities have access to high-quality veterinary care, regardless of location or local resources. This event represents a unique opportunity for the community to access specialized veterinary services.

Event dates and details:

- Dates: Sept 23, 25, 27, 28; Sept 30, Oct 1, 3, 4
- Hours: 9:30am-3:30pm
- Walk-in hours: Last walk-in accepted at 1pm

Pet owners are encouraged to schedule appointments in advance to ensure their pets receive the necessary care. Extended hours will be offered by appointment for those needing additional time.

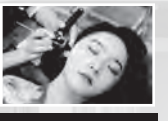
Please note, this is not a spay/neuter clinic. However, an October spay/neuter clinic will be announced soon.

To schedule an appointment or for more information, visit our website at www.saipanhumanesociety.org or email info@saipanhumanesociety.org. ***(PR)***

ARMATECH

Elevator, Escalator, Lift Installer and Repairer
Tel: (670) 234-8895 | Email: armatech.saipan@gmail.com
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

HANA HEALTH MASSAGE
SERVICES OFFERED

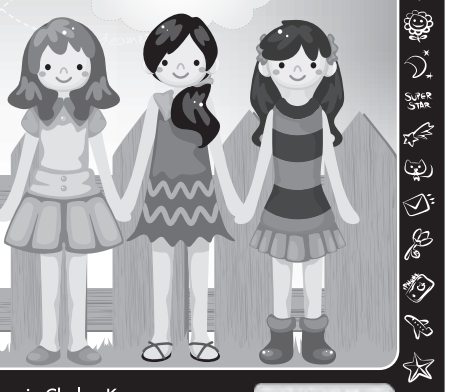

▪ Body Oil Massage ▪ Foot Massage (with medicine)
▪ Cupping Therapy (Suction cup massage for back pain) ▪ Sauna ($25 for 2 person)
NOW AVAILABLE TABLESHOWER, BODYSCRUB & EARPICKING!
Recommended to heal: Back pain, neck pain, insomia, shoulder pain and head pain
Locations: ▪ NEW location → San Antonio, across K Market next to Ranch BBQ
▪ MSV Building, Chalan Kanoa across Moonlight
10:00AM TO 12:00AM • Call HANA: (670) 789-7778
WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS

The most common identification of a leak is SMELL.
If you smell gas, there is a possibility of a fire or explosion.
If the odor is STRONG:
1. Shut off gas if possible
2. DO NOT light matches or cigarettes
3. DO NOT operate switches or electrical appliances
4. Get everyone out of the building
5. Call the Fire Department from a neighbor's phone
6. Call Wushin LPGas Emergency Number

LP GAS WUSHIN
Since1983 Committed to Safety Excellence
322-7415/322-8733

Toys & Clothes
for children ages 0 to 10
Check out our new arrivals!

LOLLIPOPS
BEACH RD., GARAPAN
Regular Store Hours: Mon-Sat 9am-7pm
Sunday: 10am - 4pm
TEL. 234-8040
Like us on Facebook

a boutique for Tween Girls
ages 8-12
Come see our new arrivals!

Girl Talk
Townhouse in Chalan Kanoa
Monday - Friday: 11am - 7pm
Saturday: 10am - 7pm • Sunday: 10am - 4pm
TEL. 233-8050
Like us on Facebook

SCS 9th Annual Family Fun Night today

Saipan Community School is thrilled to invite you to an evening of excitement and family-friendly entertainment at its 9th Annual Family Fun Night, taking place today, Sept. 20, from 5:30pm to 8:30pm. This highly anticipated event is the perfect opportunity for families, friends, and the wider community to come together and enjoy all that SCS has to offer.

The night will be packed with a variety of free activities for all ages. Get ready to test your skills with fun games, show off your vocal talent with karaoke, explore your creativity and curiosity with STEM challenges, strike a pose at our photo booth, and kick back to enjoy a family-friendly movie screening. These complimentary activities are designed to create lasting memories for everyone who attends.

In addition to the free activities, we have even more exciting offerings available for purchase. Treat yourself to delicious food and drinks, participate in special games, get creative with face painting, or grab a ticket for the always-popular Pie in the Face event! Plus, the 8th grade class will be selling snacks to support their initiatives, so be sure to stop by and show your support. And by popular demand, the Dunk Tank is making a return this year, providing even more laughter and fun for participants and spectators alike.

Admission to Family Fun Night is free, although food and some activities will require purchase. Whether you're a current member of the SCS family or new to the school, this is a wonderful opportunity to experience the vibrant community spirit that defines SCS. As a mission-driven institution serving K-8 students, SCS is committed to providing a quality academic education in a Christian environment, and events like this highlight our dedication to fostering strong, positive relationships with our families and the community.

Please note that there will be an 11am dismissal on Sept. 20 to allow for event preparations.

We can't wait to see you at this year's Family Fun Night—don't miss out on the fun, laughter, and community spirit!

If you are interested in learning more about SCS and the learning opportunities we offer from kindergarten through 8th grade, contact Amanda Dunn, principal, via email: principal@saipancommunityschool.com call our offices at (670) 234-6687 or visit us on Beach Road in Susupe. ***(PR)***

EARLY

From page 1

taken down starting next week.

Yesterday, the CEC issued a public announcement stating that early voting for Northern Islands voters for the upcoming general elections will begin this Saturday, Sept. 21. This only applies to Northern Island voters.

As for early voting for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota voters, it will begin on Oct. 29 and will end on Nov. 4, just one day before the general elections.

Early voting will commence from 8:30am to 4pm and will be held at the CEC office in Susupe.

Early voting at the CEC office will only be until Oct. 17. From Oct. 18 to Nov, 4, early voting will be held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

All early voters are required to bring their pictured ID in order to be issued a ballot at the polls.

Meanwhile, DPW has issued its own public announcement warning candidates who have erected political signs along the public right-of-way that if their signs remain unpermitted with DPW until Sept. 26, their signs will be removed.

"You are required as per Public Law 20-52 to submit a request to recent political signs to DPW, Office of the Secretary. As of Aug. 4, there are a total of 61 candidates seeking an elected seat for the upcoming general elections. [So far, only 14] have submitted a request to erect political signs on the public right-of-way," said DPW Secretary Ray Yumul.

The candidates who have requested to erect political signs are Edith Deleon Guerrero, Blas Jonathan "BJ" Attao, Ralph Yumul, Manny Gregory Castro, Luis Masga Sablan, Daniel I. Aquino, Edwin K. Propst, John Oliver DLR Gonzales, Kimberlyn King-Hinds, Angelo A. Camacho, Edmund S. Villagomez, Marissa R. Flores, Diego V.F. Camacho, ad Malcom Omar.

DPW Secretary Yumul warns that beginning Sept. 27, DPW personnel will be removing unpermitted signs.

"DPW shall be removing all unpermitted signs beginning Sept. 27. To fall in compliance and prevent removal of signs, candidates must submit a letter addressed to Secretary of Public Works, delivered to the admin office located about First Hawaiian Bank Oleai branch no later than Sept. 26. The context of the letter must include the locations, material constructions and dimensions, with sample of the sign image," he said.

For more questions, candidates may call Noel Jesus Mauldin or Lorraine Villagomez at (670) 235-9570.

CPA

From page 1

Last Wednesday, CPA executive director Leo Tudela responded to Star Marianas Air, Inc. letter for clarification on whether CPA would be making arrangements or not for adequate CBP personnel at the Rota International Airport.

CBP pre-screening for flights from Rota to Guam is required and up until now, Star Marianas has been transporting CBP personnel, free of charge, to and from Rota as there is no CBP officers stationed at the Rota airport.

In a recent letter to CPA, Star Marianas says it can no longer continue this service and sought clarity on whether CPA would be arranging for CBP personnel on Rota or else they would have to cancel their Rota-Guam flights starting Oct. 1.

According to Tudela, although he sympathizes with the Rota community, CPA was never a party in the arrangement for CBP personnel on Rota.

"Although I sympathize with those that will be affected by SMA's choice to discontinue providing transportation for CBP personnel, I want to be clear that the transportation arrangement was between CBP and SMA, not CPA. CPA was never a part to the arrangement/agreement," said Tudela.

In response to Tudela, Star Marianas board chair Robert Christian said while Star Marianas understands that CPA is not directly responsible for transporting CBP personnel to Rota, CPA, as the managing authority for the airport, holds the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that all required services are in place to support the operations of airlines and facilitate passenger travel.

"Thank you for your letter acknowledging the CPA's position regarding its lack of direct participation in the provision of CBP pre-clearance services at the Rota airport. While we understand that CPA may not be directly responsible for delivering these services, it is important to emphasize that the CPA, as the managing authority for the airport, holds the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that all required services are in place to support the operations of airlines and facilitate passenger travel. The availability of CBP pre-clearance services is critical to maintaining scheduled flights between Rota and Guam and ensuring that passengers meet U.S. entry requirements," he said.

As the authority responsible for airport management, Christian says CPA must ensure that appropriate arrangements are made with CBP to provide the necessary services for pre-clearance.

"Without these services, the viability of scheduled routes such as ours becomes jeopardized, and it is ultimately within CPA's mandate to ensure the proper facilitation of these essential services. Given the gravity of this situation, I must reiterate that the provisioning of required services falls within the CPA's jurisdiction and responsibility, in coordination with CBP. If these services are not facilitated, airlines like Star Marianas will face significant operational challenges, including potential cancellations, which will directly impact passengers and the broader transportation network," Christian said.

In light of this, Christian says he strongly urges CPA to take a more active role in ensuring that CBP services are made available at the Rota Airport.

"We are open to discussing how Star Marianas can assist in facilitating this process, but the responsibility must reside with CPA and CBP to deliver these services effectively and in a timely manner. I look forward to your response and to working collaboratively to address this issue and avoid disruption to critical flight service," he said.

OPA

From page 1

Guerrero also disclosed in her report to the Interagency Audit Coordinating Advisory Group last Monday that OPA requested agencies to provide updates on the corrective actions that they have taken to resolve each recommendation and that OPA received responses from all the auditees.

Auditees Commonwealth Election Commission, Department of Finance, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and the Department of Land & Natural Resources have shared to OPA their respective corrective actions.

Resolved are the Aug. 2, 2022 finding that government vehicles were not accurately reflected on the DOF-Procurement Services and government agency inventory listings; the Dec. 28, 2021 finding that collection points are established to receive payment for services provided on Tinian and Rota; and the Jan. 28, 2020 finding that DOF did not review third-party billings for completeness and enforce provisions of the government fuel contract.

On audit of government vehicles, OPA's recommendation to the finding was for DOF-PS educate government agencies on DOF-PS' current procurement regulations and the CNMI Property Management Policies and Procedures Manual to ensure all government vehicles are properly accounted for.

As its corrective action, on May 29 and 30, 2024, DOF-PS conducted its first-ever "Intro to Procurement Workshop" aimed at educating government agencies on the proper methods of procurement. Over 200 participants attended the workshop.

OPA noted that the CNMI Property Management Policies and Procedures Manual is currently undergoing revision with a proposed effective date of Dec. 31, 2024.

On audit of cash on Tinian and Rota, OPA's recommendation was that collection points within the same building be consolidated to provide a central collection point for efficiency and better use of resources.

As its corrective action, DOF-Tinian reported that there are no longer multiple points within the same building.

OPA noted that based on their physical observation, a central collection point has been established by DOF-Tinian.

Regarding the audit of the government fuel contract, one of the recommendations was for the DOF to communicate provision of the fuel contract and require agencies to adopt procedures.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

IPI

From page 1

it should not enter an order holding Sit in contempt and compelling Sit to promptly produce the requested documents and appear for a deposition.

In addition, the parties suggested the imposition of a daily fine of $2,000 until Sit complies.

Sit's attorney, Joey San Nicolas, has filed a motion with the court stating that the deposition notice and subpoenas should be found invalid due to extreme short notice period and failure to notify other parties of the deposition.

First, San Nicolas argues that the deposition notices have only two days' notice, the notices imposed an undue burden on Sit, and were issued for improper purposes.

"The Deposition Notice from the CNMI government includes a request for production of documents, but only give two days' notice. Similarly, the Deposition Notice from Joshua Gray, although did not specifically ask for production of documents, it only gave two days' notice as well," he said.

In addition, San Nicolas argues that the deposition notice from the CNMI failed to comply with Federal Rules of Procedure 45 (d) (1) and the failure prejudices Sit and the IPI estate.

"Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 45(d)(1), if the subpoena commands the production of documents, electronically stored information, or tangible things or the inspection of premises before trial, then before it is served on the person to whom it is directed, a notice and a copy of the subpoena must be served on each party. The subpoena notice issued by CNMI's attorney failed to comply with that requirement, it commanded the production of documents and was not served on the parties to the action which conceivably includes the Office of the U.S. Trustee and all others who have appeared," he said.

"Given the extreme brief notice to Mr. Sit, and the procedural failure of CNMI to serve the same notice on other parties, such as IPI, and the Creditor Committee, the Court should find the subpoena invalid," San Nicolas added.

According to archives, IPI filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy last April 19, saying it owes creditors over $165.8 million.

Chapter 11 bankruptcy allows a business corporation to restructure its debts and continue operating.

IPI has since decided it wants to proceed with a Chapter 11 liquidation of the hotel-casino property.

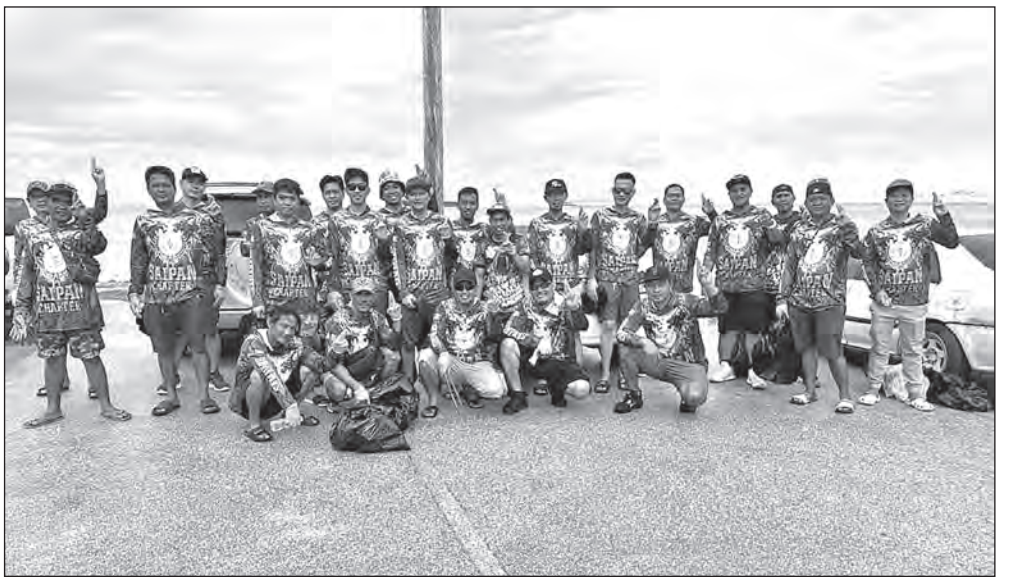
Among the IPI creditors with the largest unsecured claims were the CNMI Treasury with $62 million for casino license fees; MCC International, $34.9 million for construction services; Commonwealth Casino Commission, $17.6 million for licensing fees and penalties; the law offices of Hughes Hubbard & Reed, $8.58 million for legal fees; Century Estate Investment Ltd., $8 million for an unpaid loan; CNMI Division of Revenue and Taxation, $7.9 million for unpaid business gross revenue tax; and Joshua Gray, $5.68 million for default judgment.

IPI also owes the Internal Revenue Service $4 million; the U.S. Department of Labor-Wage and Hour Division, $950,000; and the U.S. Department of Justice-Civil Division, $1.46 million.

Ilocano Island Cleanup







The Samahang Ilocano CNMI Chapter held a cleanup in Garapan from Sabulu Market to Paseo De Marianas near the Garapan fire station last Sept. 15. The cleanup, under the organization's Clean and Green Program, had the theme "Cleaning and Beautification for the Beauty of the Island" and was conducted under leadership of national chairman Jerald Rivera and president Nathaniel Sibayan.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Rehabilitation Council
&
Statewide Independent Living Council
"Yes I Can!"

P.O. Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 322-6537 • Fax: (670) 322-6548 • E-Mail: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that
the State Rehabilitation Council and Statewide Independent Living Council
will hold their FY 2024 Joint Fourth General Membership Meeting
on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at 10:00 AM at Aqua Resort Club (Taga Room).
Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of General Membership Meeting Minutes
- **a.** SRC Third General Membership Meeting (July 30, 2024)
- **b.** SILC Third General Membership Meeting (August 21, 2024)

V. Reports
- **a.** SRC Chairperson
- **b.** SILC Chairperson
- **c.** CLI Executive Director
- **d.** OVR Director

VI. Old Business
- **a.** SRC Membership Listing
- **b.** SILC Membership Listing

VII. New Business
- **a.** FY 2024 SRC/SILC/OVR Annual Report
- **b.** SRC Membership Attendance
- **c.** SILC Membership Attendance

VIII. Action Items
- **a.** Review and Adoption of FY 2025 SRC Resource Plan
- **b.** Review and Adoption of FY 2025 SILC Resource Plan
- **c.** Election of Officers for SRC
- **d.** Election of SILC Fiscal Officer

IX. Miscellaneous
X. Adjournment

/s/Antonelli Rosario, SRC Chairperson **/s/Nicolas Torres, SILC Chairperson**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require reasonable accommodation such as large print or sign language interpreter must contact the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation at (670) 322-6537/38 or email nmidir@ovrgov.net before 3:00 PM on Friday, September 20, 2024.

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (DOE-OSERS Grant #H126A240078).

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

RFP24– RED001
"LEASE AND DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC PROPERTIES IN ROTA, MP"
EXTENDED

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 10, 2024

Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David Apatang, through the Department of Public Lands (DPL), are soliciting sealed proposals from interested and qualified firms for the purpose of leasing and commercial development of the following public lands:

Lot Number	Lot Size, M2
410 R 03	9,119
410 R 02	12,964
412 R 04	930,755
412 R 15	340,729
Aggregate Area in Square Meters:	**1,293,567**

The revised RFP instruction and information package (RFP Packet) is available at the Department of Public Lands office, located on the 2nd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, during the hours of 7:30am to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays. Full package of the RFP is available to download at www.dpl.gov.mp or can be emailed to anyone interested at no cost. A non-refundable Administrative Processing Fee of **Five Thousand Dollars (US $5,000.00)** is required upon submission of a proposal and payment must be made through cash or check payable to: ***Department of Public Lands.***

Interested proposers from overseas may request an RFP Packet by email. The request must reference **"RFP24-RED001 - LEASE & DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS IN ROTA, MP"**, and include a certified or cashier's check payable to ***Department of Public Lands*** for the amount of US $5,000.00 (a non-refundable fee required upon submission of proposal).

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"RFP24-RED001 - LEASE & DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS IN ROTA, MP"**. For proposers, one (1) original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the DPL Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building by **no later than 2:00 pm ChST, on November 10, 2024 ChST** or mailed to the following address shown below:

Department of Public Lands
P.O. Box 500380 Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone number(s): (670) 234-3751/52/53
Facsimile number: (670) 234-3755
Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

Questions from proposing firms regarding the contents of the RFP packet must be received, **no later than 4:00 pm on October 15, 2024 ChST** and must be submitted in writing via mail, email or facsimile to, Secretary, Department of Public Lands at the address above. Responses to questions will be summarized and shared with all proposers in a "Question and Answer" format.

The DPL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal, if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of public land beneficiaries. All proposals shall become the sole property of the DPL.

/s/Teresita A. Santos
Secretary

GUANGDONG HARDWARE
Never satisfied until you are
ON SALE
REGULAR US LUMBER, RED PLYFORM, "24X24" CERAMIC TILES, PVC S40 CONDUIT, PVC S80 WATER FITTINGS,
AVAILABLE NOW
SALE ITEMS!

Make a Difference for Your House!

NEW ARRIVALS!
CARPOLY PAINT
It's the suitable paint for the island climate.
Make your paint last for a long time!

1 FREE T-shirt with one time purchase of two buckets of
CARPOLY
Professional Paint Solution Provider
First Come First Served, While Stocks Last
LED LIGHTS
• Less money, 50% energy saving!
• More stable, bright, and fashionable!
• More longer and environmental protection!
Your Smart Choice!
G60 Rebar is Available Now!
CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!
P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:guangdong_hardware@163.com
BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
DISCOVER MasterCard VISA

MANGO joins global leaders in Iowa to address local challenges

Frances Sablan, executive director, and Laurie Peterka, Development & Communications director, of the Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations recently participated in the Connecting Communities in the Americas event held in Dubuque, Iowa. Sablan and Peterka joined 50 leaders from 13 countries and territories spanning the Americas, Pacific Islands, and the Caribbean, to explore innovative ways to address local issues in rural communities.

Hosted by the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, the event focused on fostering collaboration among community leaders to create sustainable solutions for regional challenges. Participants discussed strategies for economic development, community engagement, and capacity building.

"This gathering gave me the opportunity to learn new ideas and approaches from community leaders around the world," said Sablan. "I'm excited to bring these insights back to MANGO and use them to further our mission of supporting local nonprofits in the Northern Marianas."

Sablan and Peterka's primary focus is on securing funding for projects that promote cultural preservation, economic growth, and job security in the CNMI.

"The economic fluctuations we experience in the Northern Marianas can significantly affect livelihoods," Peterka noted. "I'm eager to implement what I've learned in Dubuque to support our member organizations and help create more job opportunities and stability for the people of the CNMI."

The Connecting Communities in the Americas event underscored the importance of global collaboration in addressing local issues. The MANGO leadership in attendance believe that the innovative strategies and funding mechanisms shared during the event will empower MANGO to better serve its more than 100 member organizations and the wider community.


MANGO
MANGO executive director Frances Sablan, left, poses with other regional leaders.


MANGO
MANGO Development & Communications director Laurie Peterka, left, shares ideas with other regional leaders.

About Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque

The Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering regional prosperity by connecting donors, nonprofits, and community leaders to address critical local issues. Founded in 2002, the foundation serves Dubuque and the surrounding area by providing philanthropic leadership, promoting community collaboration, and managing charitable funds to support initiatives in education, economic development, and social equity. Through events like Connecting Communities in the Americas, the foundation facilitates dialogue and innovation to empower rural communities and drive positive, sustainable change.

About MANGO

The Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations is a coalition of nonprofits in the Northern Mariana Islands, dedicated to supporting local organizations through funding, capacity building, and advocacy. MANGO's mission is to strengthen the role of non-governmental organizations in promoting sustainable development and preserving cultural heritage in the region.

For media inquiries, contact Shawna Babauta, Communications & Membership manager, at (670) 233-6200 or sbabauta@mangocnmi.org. ***(PR)***

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) SALES MANAGER

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Develop and implement strategic sales plans to expand the company's customer base and ensure a strong market presence in local renewable energy market; Negotiate and close business deals with B2B customers, meeting the company's growth objectives; Create and conduct workshops on the installation of solar air conditioners and energy-saving methods. This curriculum should educate participants on the benefits and workings of solar technology and energy conservation. Use these workshops as an outreach program to foster brand loyalty, boost customer retention, and stimulate a referral system; Demonstrate the controlling function and data analysis of the solar system application. Assist B2B customers in setting up centralized climate management on the Solar AC mobile app; Develop and implement a comprehensive social media strategy that aligns with company sales goals; use social media platforms to generate leads, drive website traffic, and establish brand identity; Monitor and analyze social media performance to optimize the approach and increase engagement; Maintain regular posting on all platforms; Monitor and analyze performance metrics to identify area for improvement and drive sales growth; Manage Solar AC dealership/partnership in Rota, Tinian and other sub-markets; Develop a reasonable minimum order quantity (MOQ) for these sub-markets and determine their sales goals; Select and prepare Solar Aircon and other renewable energy products for consumer rebate programs under various government agencies; Develop a plan to educate customers about rebate and grant applications for related products; Prepare accurate and timely monthly, quarterly, and annual sales reports, providing sales history and forecasts to key stakeholders; Liaise with the installation team to ensure high customer satisfaction ratings for the air conditioner products and solar installations; Implement and manage a CRM system to optimize customer interactions, track sales activities, and analyze data for strategic decision-making.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- Bachelor's Degree in Business, Marketing or related field; and
- At least 24 months experience in Sales Management and Business Development.

Working Conditions: Full-time (40 hours per week).

Location: Crownway Green Energy (USA) Company Limited, No. 3078, Laguna Vista Bldg., 1, Beach Road, PMB 328E, Box 10003, Saipan, MP 96950

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

Chor Sing Lam, Corporate Secretary
No. 3078, Lagauna Vista Bldg. 1, Beach Road,
PMB 328E, Box 10003
Saipan, MP 96950
Contact no. 670-989-2288
E-mail: gavinlam44@gmail.com

WE ARE AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 • Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315 • www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of September 20, 2024

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

NO.	APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1.	Island Marine Sports, Inc. dba Island Marine Sports	8/8/2024 SLR-2024-078	Commercial Parasailing Activities	All Designated Parasailing Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved * 9/4/2024
2.	P'Art Corporation Ocean	9/4/2024 SLR-2024-084	Commercial Parasailing Activity	All Designated Parasailing Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 9/9/2024
3.	Marianas Management Corporation	9/10/2024 SW-2024-085	Construction of the Joeten-Oleai Center Parking Lot Expansion	Oleai, Saipan	Wetlands & Mangroves	Application Under Review*
4.	SubCom, LLC.	8/28/2024 TLR-2024-005	Plato/Violin Cable System Potential Landing Site Survey	San Jose, Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

SHEFA application process now online

All interested new, ongoing, and returning applicants of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance must apply online at www.saipanshefa.com

Deadline to apply and submit supporting documents for fall 2024 is Sept. 30, 2024. For more information, call (670) 233-5995/235-1020/21. ***(PR)***

Guam native urges continued collaboration with Indigenous communities

WASHINGTON, D.C.—In a LinkedIn article published Tuesday, Lauren Swaddell, an Indigenous Chamorro conservation expert and Pacific Remote Islands Coalition member, urges the Biden Administration to take the next steps in meaningful, reciprocal partnerships with Indigenous Pacific Island communities as it sets up a new name, co-management structure and expanded protections for the Pacific Remote Islands.

» Expand protections for Pacific Remote Islands

Swaddell names how the Biden Administration can chart a new path forward and include Indigenous communities at the decision-making table. She describes how the government can set up its management framework for protected areas. "Co-management is a pathway for shared stewardship with Indigenous communities. The Biden administration can follow the call from Indigenous leaders to create a co-management plan for the PRI."

The PRI Coalition, a network of elders, fishers, cultural practitioners, navigators, scientists, nonprofit leaders, and storytellers from across Oceania, who have worked together for the last decade to protect the rich ecosystem and heritage of the region.

The Pacific Remote Islands include Howland, Baker, Jarvis, and Wake Islands; Johnston and Palmyra atolls; and Kingman Reef. They lie between Hawai'i, the Marianas, the Marshall Islands, and Kiribati in the Central Pacific.

They are home to some of the last wild ocean ecosystems on Earth. The islands and atolls hold deep historical significance for Marshallese, Hawaiians, Chamorros, and other Pacific Islanders.

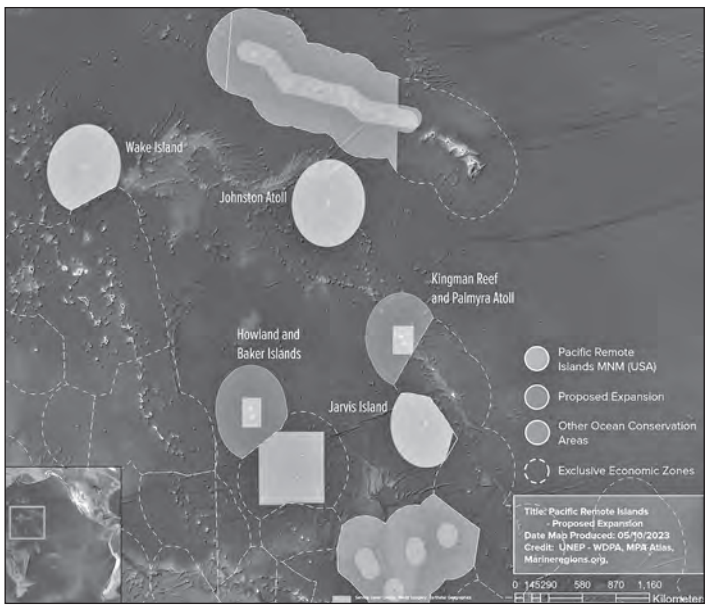
Swaddell includes examples of the current administration working toward this through co-management structures set up with Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument of the western Hawaii archipelago and the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah.

"By designating a national marine sanctuary at the PRI, the largest marine protected area in the world, the United States can continue to set a global example of partnering with Indigenous communities to conserve precious natural and cultural resources," Swaddell states.

Pacific Remote Islands have long held significance for Native Pacific Islanders' cross-oceanic migration, voyaging and cultural practice and depend on healthy ecosystems with intact biological indicators. The heritage of the Pacific people is inextricably linked to the vitality of the ocean.

In her article, Swaddell articulates a hopeful vision for a partnership between the U.S. government and Indigenous Pacific Island communities—one in which Pacific Islanders from the U.S. territories are not only respected and listened to but also collaboratively leading stewardship decisions. Swaddell will speak at a panel hosted by Patagonia during Climate Week NYC to discuss opportunities to elevate Pacific Islander voices and fully protect the shared natural and cultural heritage of the Pacific Remote Islands.

Read the full article at: https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/pacific-islanders-steering-ocean-conservation-lauren-swaddell-c1p4e/



PRI

Map shows the Pacific Remote Islands of Howland, Baker, Jarvis, and Wake Islands; Johnston and Palmyra atolls; and Kingman Reef. They lie between Hawaii, the Marianas, the Marshall Islands, and Kiribati in the Central Pacific.

About the Pacific Remote Islands Coalition

Since 2014, the Pacific Remote Islands Coalition has worked to protect the cultural, natural and historical legacy of these special islands, atolls and reefs. Given the area's important ecological and cultural value, we are urging the Biden administration to fully expand protections for the Pacific Remote Islands. Our diverse network includes elders, fishers, educators, cultural practitioners, nonprofits, community groups, and scientists across the Pacific Islands and beyond. We are a coalition brought together by a love for the ocean that connects and sustains us. Learn more at www.protect-pri.com. ***(PR)***

Island Training Solutions
Experience you can trust.

Is seeking experienced & qualified

INSTRUCTORS

Hospitality
Entrepreneurship
IT (networking, cybersecurity, device configuration & repair etc)
Personal Financial Literacy
Microsoft Word & Excel

Island Training Solutions is seeking part-time/contracted instructors in the above areas.

Applicants should be able to provide certifications, education, and experience in the areas they wish to instruct. Teaching or instructing experience is preferred, but not required Strong command of the English language (spoken and written) and presenting skills required.

Instructor-led classes will follow a set curriculum and pacing. Classes may be in book or online formats. Instructors are responsible for basic reporting such as attendance and quiz/test scoring.

Instructors are expected to prepare participants to sit for recognized certification exams.

Class participants can range from high school to adult learners. Seeking US citizen, Green Card, etc. holders

Submit resume with on-island references to islandtrainingsolutions@gmail.com – attention to Jim Arenovski

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-24-021

AFETNAS WATERLINE REPLACEMENT
and
AFETNAS SEWERLINE COLLECTION UPGRADE PH I

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Afetnas Waterline Replacement and Afetnas Sewerline Collection Upgrade in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The **Afetnas Waterline Replacement project consists** of replacing existing water mains on Afetna Road, Buninas Loop, Chalak Lane, Pios Drive, Uahu Lane, Toson Drive, Sata Drive, and Doddo Way. New water pipelines, saddles, corporation & curb stops, and relocation & reconnection to the existing water meters will be installed and done to accomplish the work. The work will include shallow excavations, rock-breaking, installing new flush & fire hydrants, pressure & air relief valves, connecting new service laterals, asphalt pavement restoration, installing flowable fill, and other appurtenances for a complete and functional water system.

The **Afetnas Sewerline Collection Upgrade Ph I project** consists of furnishing all labor, supervision, equipment, and materials for the construction of various improvements within an area. This work includes, but is not limited to installation of new gravity main and new sewer manholes, service laterals, connection of new service laterals to existing service laterals, abandonment of existing sewer manholes, and restoration of existing asphalt concrete road.

The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water and sewer systems. CUC requires the Projects to be completed in 540 calendar days from the date of the award of the contract.

These projects are funded by grants from the United States American Rescue Plan Act (US ARPA) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). The award of these projects is contingent upon receipt of approval for project awards from US ARPA and US EPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **September 12, 2024 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-24-021, Afetnas Waterline Replacement and Afetnas Sewerline Collection Upgrade Ph I** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 7, 2024,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before the due date and time or post-marked before the due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns, and qualifications shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contract nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility for any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to a lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of the Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on September 16, 2024,** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Kennet Bernardo, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email kennet.bernardo@cucgov.org, and to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

KEVIN O. WATSON
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Legislature, governor join Judiciary in celebrating Juror Appreciation Week





JUDICIARY OF GUAM

The Judiciary of Guam honored the more than 13,000 citizens who report for jury duty each year by declaring Juror Appreciation Week from Sept. 9 to 13, 2024.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM • WEBSITE: HTTPS: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

INVITATION FOR BID

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-008-24-(REPACKAGED)
SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"60 MONTH LEASE OF FIVE (5) ALL-IN ONE MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER/COPIER MACHINES"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING AUGUST 16, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "60-MONTH LEASE OF FIVE (5) ALL-IN-ONE MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER/COPIER MACHINES **(IFB-008-24-REPACKAGED)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., SEPTEMBER 20, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

FREDERICK PANGELINAN DATE: AUGUST 16, 2024
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB24-OGM/RT-42400137

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PONA POINT CLIFF FISHING PARK PROJECT, ROTA"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12386, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB MAY BE SENT TO ADMINISTRATOR OF OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT, MR. EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA JR. AT EPI.CABRERA@GOV.MP BY 4:30 P.M. CHST., SEPTEMBER 25, 2024.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-305, 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPHIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR. **/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS, JR.**
STATE ADMINISTRATOR, OGM **ACTING DIRECTOR, PS**





HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Recognizing the invaluable contributions of jurors to Guam's justice system—lawmakers, the Gov. Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero and Lt. Gov. Josh F. Tenorio joined the Judiciary of Guam in declaring Juror Appreciation Week from Sept. 9 to 13, 2024. The annual event honors the more than 13,000 citizens who report for jury duty each year, enabling thousands of cases to be fairly adjudicated in the local courts.

To kick off the event, a resolution introduced by Speaker Therese M. Terlaje of the 37th Guam Legislature was presented at the Guam Congress Building last Sept. 9.

"The right to a trial by jury is a cornerstone of the American legal system, and the privilege and duty of serving as a juror is as fundamental to democracy as the right to vote," said Terlaje. "We also recognize the Judiciary for its role in creating an environment for these jurors that is safe, that is with dignity, and that allows them to serve in our Constitutional system."

Juror Appreciation Week aims to publicly acknowledge those who have served, educate the public on the importance of jury duty, and strengthen confidence in the justice system.

Leon Guerrero and Tenorio also presented a proclamation to the Judiciary. "Jurors often set aside personal, family, and professional responsibilities to fulfill this important civic duty," said Governor Leon Guerrero in her proclamation. "It is only right to recognize and commend the dedication of past, present, and future jurors who continue to answer the call to serve and uphold the principles of justice and democracy."

"We know that jury service is not always easy, but it is always critical. It's how we ensure that justice is not just for the few, but for everyone," said Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III. "To every juror, past, present, and future—we could not deliver justice without you. Thank you for your service and your commitment."

For more information about jury service, visit the Judiciary of Guam's website at https://www.guamcourts.org/for-Jurors/Juror-FAQ.html. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI Government
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND Floor Arrival Bldg.
PO BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP • 96950
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-001-25
SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 09, 2024 (2:00 PM)

"GENERATORS PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE, SERVICE, AND REPAIRSFRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 06, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $200.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES OF THEIR PROPOSAL IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "GENERATORS PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE, SERVICE, & REPAIRS, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, **(RFP-001-25)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., OCTOBER 09, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA DATE: SEPTEMBER 04, 2024
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-017-24

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 27, 2024 (2:00 PM)

"AC PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE, SERVICE, AND REPAIRS FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT & PORT OF SAIPAN

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING AUGUST 28, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES OF THEIR BID IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "AC PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE, SERVICE, & REPAIRS, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT & PORT OF SAIPAN, (IFB-017-24)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., SEPTMEBER 27, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA DATE: AUGUST 28, 2024
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

USCG Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam, CNMI agencies conduct joint search and rescue exercise

U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam and Station Apra Harbor personnel teamed up with local rescue units and enforcement officers from the CNMI for an intensive three-day Search and Rescue Exercise on Saipan from Sept. 10 to 12, 2024.

This year's exercise brought together a robust team of responders, including members from the CNMI Department of Fire and Emergency and Medical Services, CNMI Customs and Biosecurity, CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and the CNMI Division of Fish & Wildlife, all working toward enhancing search and rescue capabilities, communication protocols, and partnerships within the Northern Marianas.

"Seeing the growth and increased readiness of our local agencies over the past few years is truly inspiring," said Chief Petty Officer Richard Hofschneider, a proud Tinian native and part of the Forces Micronesia Emergency Management and Force Readiness staff. "It's not just about the drills; it's about our community coming together. These exercises remind us that we're protecting our homes, families, and friends—something we all take pride in."

The event began with visits to critical facilities, including the Emergency Operations Center at Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the Customs and Biosecurity Office, and the Division of Fish and Wildlife, where U.S. Coast Guard personnel conducted walkthroughs of search and rescue assets, discussed routine operations and procedures, and engaged in meet-and-greets with new leadership, including the Emergency Management and Communications Chiefs. Tropical Storm Bebinca preempted an on-water exercise out of caution and safety. Department of Public Safety personnel were unable to participate due to prior commitments but remain a steadfast search and rescue partner.

Building upon the foundations set in 2022 and exercised again in 2023, this year's SAREx further demonstrated the critical importance of interagency cooperation and training. The multi-day exercise included more than 15 participants.

"We've come so far in our capabilities and readiness to respond to emergencies, and these exercises keep pushing us forward," added Hofschneider. "Our partnerships reflected as recently as September 4 when the team at the Emergency Operations Center in Saipan notified us that the Department of Public Safety on Tinian was responding to a report of a disabled 18-foot recreational vessel with two people aboard about 20 miles off Rota. Our command center team coordinated with U.S. Navy HSC-25, who located the vessel and guided in the DPS rescue boat using visual signals, highlighting the importance of predictive search tools and interagency collaboration."



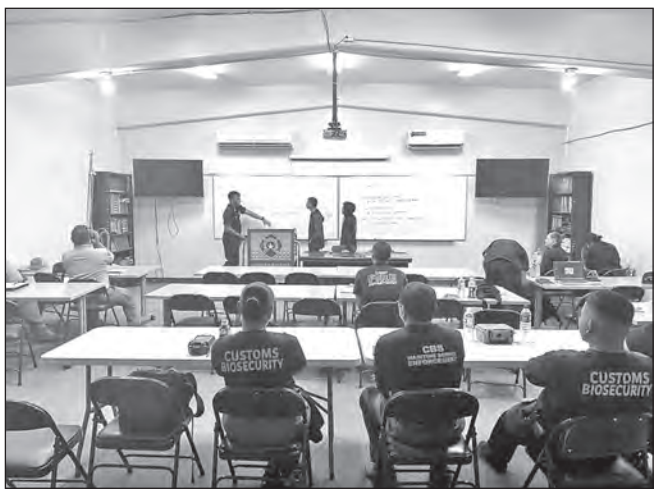
USCG

Lt. Chelsea Garcia, of the response department and a search and rescue mission coordinator, discusses search fundamentals as U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam and Station Apra Harbor personnel team up with local rescue units and enforcement officers from the CNMI for an intensive three-day Search and Rescue Exercise on Saipan from Sept. 10-12, 2024.



USCG

U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam and Station Apra Harbor personnel take a moment for a photo with local rescue units and enforcement officers from the CNMI for an intensive three-day Search and Rescue Exercise on Saipan from Sept. 10-12, 2024.



USCG

This year's exercise brought together a robust team of responders, including members from the CNMI Department of Emergency and Medical Services, CNMI Customs and Biosecurity, CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and the CNMI Division of Fish & Wildlife, all working toward enhancing search and rescue capabilities, communication protocols, and partnerships within the Northern Marianas.

This year's SAREx continued to build on past successes, including other notable cases over the past two years, such as:

■ The rescue operation by USCGC *Myrtle Hazard* (WPC 1139) between Guam and Rota in February 2023, saving two mariners after their boat sank.

■ The May 2023 medical evacuation led by the USCGC *Oliver Henry* (WPC 1140) from Alamagan Island following a speargun accident.

■ The international rescue of 11 people from a vessel off Rota in July involving responders from France, Canada, and the U.S. military.

■ The August 2023 rescue and tow operation for the M/V *Mama Loling* by USCGC *Frederick Hatch* (WPC 1143).

■ The successful search and rescue operation conducted by U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam, in partnership with Guam Fire Rescue and U.S. Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 (HSC-25), for a distressed vessel 30 miles northwest of Guam on Jan. 6, 2023, saving six boaters.

■ The June 23, 2024, operation by U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam demonstrated preparedness and efficiency, rescuing 13 boaters from a distressed vessel 13 nautical miles north of Guam.

■ The July 21, 2024, combined rescue effort by the U.S. Navy, good Samaritans from Cabras Marine Corp., the Saipan Department of Public Safety Boating Safety, and the U.S. Coast Guard, which saved 15 boaters disabled 15 nautical miles west of Aguijan Island, CNMI.

These incidents underscore the vital role of exercises like the SAREx in maintaining readiness and forging strong interagency bonds. The U.S. Coast Guard remains committed to ongoing training and partnership efforts in Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Compact of Free Association states, ensuring that our collective response capabilities are continuously refined and strengthened.

Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam personnel plan to continue these exercises in 2025, furthering the growth of federal, local, and military agency collaboration in search and rescue operations.



USCG

U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam and Station Apra Harbor personnel team up with local rescue units and enforcement officers from the CNMI for an intensive three-day Search and Rescue Exercise on Saipan from Sept. 10-12, 2024.

About US Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/ Sector Guam

U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam protects maritime interests, ensures security, and fosters peace and prosperity across the Blue Pacific. Their operations span search and rescue, law enforcement, environmental protection, and national defense. They maintain close ties with local, regional, and international partners to uphold maritime safety and security standards.

For further details on the ongoing efforts of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia, contact Chief Warrant Officer Sara Muir, public affairs officer, at sara.g.muir@uscg.mil or uscgforcesmicronesia@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

CEDA
COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147 • www.developcnmi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Friday, September 20, 2024

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CEDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 AT 2:00 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CEDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CEDA BUILDING, OLEAI SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
   A. Call to Order
   B. Roll Call
   C. Adoption of Agenda
   D. Adoption of Minutes
      1) February 29, 2024
      2) June 20, 2024
      3) September 4, 2024
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. REPORTS
   A. Executive Director's Report
      1. Administrative & Personnel – Board Action
         a. Performance Evaluation Tool
         b. Amend Personnel Rules & Regulations
         c. Status Update on the Recruitment of a Field Representative for Tinian.
   B. Financial Matters – Update
      1. CEDA Financial Status
   C. Loan & Legal Matters – Board Action
      1. Island Development Corporation
      2. Eagle Construction
   D. Qualifying Certificate/Economic Development Activities Update
IV. OLD BUSINESS – Board action
   A. FLIB - New Loan Program
   B. Proposed Amendments to the CEDA Statute
      1. Provision for Consumer Loans
      2. Provision for a Sunset Clause for Consumer Loans & Refinancing of CEDA Loan
      3. Amendment to the CEDA Act to Increase the Executive Director's Lending Limit
      4. Marianas Visitor Authority's Request for Financial Assistance for Exit Survey
      5. Commonwealth Port Authority's Request for Funding Assistance for Port Improvement Projects
V. NEW BUSINESS – Board Action
   A. Approval & Adoption of CEDA Board Resolutions – Meritorious Service Award (CEDA-2024-004, 005, 006, & 007)
   B. H.B. 23-103 – To amend 4 CMC § 1305 and 4 CMC § 1708
VI. OTHER MATTERS
   A. Pension Obligation Bonds - Update
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/
FRANCISCO M. RABAULIMAN
Chairman, Board of Directors

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 187

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Mark Rabago EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

California restaurant closings show true minimum wage is $0 an hour

President Ronald Reagan once said, "The nine most terrifying words in the English language are 'I'm from the government and I'm here to help.'" California Gov. Gavin Newsom keeps proving him right.

Last September, Newsom signed a bill mandating a $20 per hour minimum wage for fast-food workers. The requirement went into effect in April. It also created a fast-food regulatory council, which has the power to raise fast-food workers' minimum wage each year.

"What's good for workers is good for business, and as California's fast food industry continues booming every single month, our workers are finally getting the pay they deserve," Newsom said in an August statement.

Newsom should quit eating at the French Laundry and go visit some fast-food restaurants.

The legislation contributed to California restaurants cutting around 9,500 jobs between September 2023 and January 2024, according to the Hoover Institution. This was a 1.3 percent reduction. These problems have continued since the law went into effect in April.

The Shake Shack burger chain recently announced that it will shut six California locations, including five in Los Angeles. Shake Shack's filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission stated that the closing locations "are not projected to provide acceptable returns in the foreseeable future."

Shake Shack CEO Rob Lynch said last month that he didn't want the company to appeal to "only the highest-income burger eaters," but rather be "a Friday night staple for the family." That's harder to do when the government artificially raises labor costs.

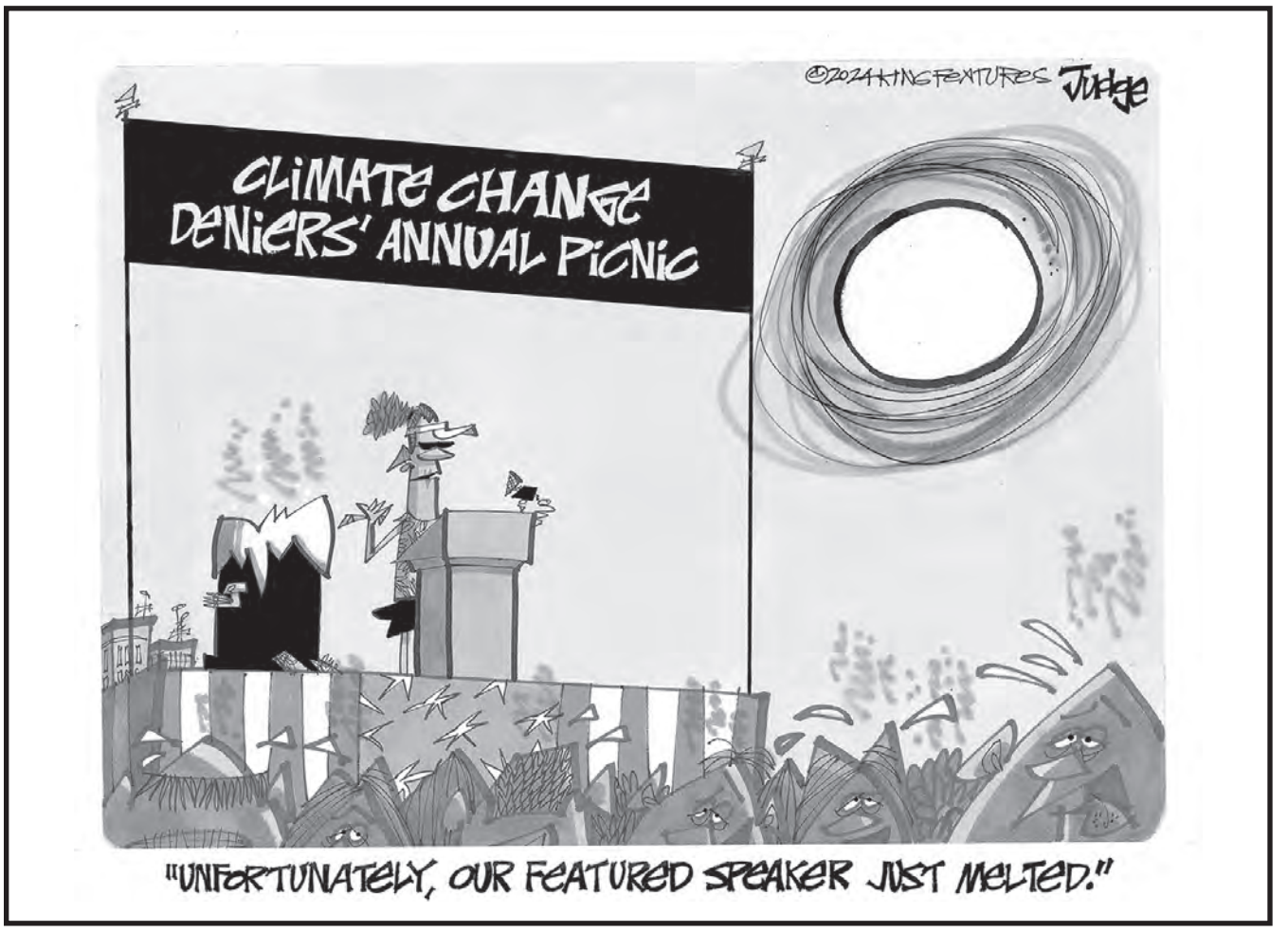
Rubio's California Grill shut down 48 of its around 130 locations in May. A spokesperson for Rubio's told the New York Post that "the closings were brought about by the rising cost of doing business" in California. The company then filed for bankruptcy in June.

Even restaurants that remain open have had to make changes. Many companies, including McDonald's and In-N-Out Burger, raised prices. Some restaurants have reduced employees' hours and leaned into automation.

In many cases, the legislation in California is hurting the very people it's supposed to help. For most people, working in a fast-food restaurant isn't supposed to be a career, but a starting point. Entry-level jobs provide workers with a chance to improve their skills and demonstrate their ability to do things like show up on time. As the value they provide increases, their pay will increase as well. But this ladder of opportunity isn't available if the government-mandated minimum wage makes it so companies won't hire them in the first place.

This consequence may be unintended, but it was predictable.

©2024 Las Vegas Review-Journal



Breaking our plastics habit is easier said than done

Could our unshakeable addiction to plastics be broken?

That's certainly the hope of activists. The U.S.—birthplace of the modern polymers industry, and the biggest producer of its key feedstocks, oil and gas—has joined a bloc supporting a worldwide treaty capping plastics production. That could make a United Nations meeting in South Korea in November into a turning point in the material culture of humanity. The harder challenge will be ensuring that an agreement is workable.

Whichever way you look at it, a mountain of waste polymers is likely to be one of the most lasting monuments of the 21st century. We produce some 400 million metric tons of plastics year in, year out. Except for the roughly 9% that's recycled and 12% that's incinerated, all of it ends up somewhere in the environment, whether in a landfill or scattered through our streets, soil and oceans.

Do everything feasible to stop that runaway train and we might cut output by about 40% by 2040, according to one influential study. Even such an ambitious scenario would leave more than 10 billion tons of waste by mid-century.

How you feel about that depends on how you weigh the contradictory evidence about the costs and benefits of plastics. It's not enough to point at a large number and worry about it: Each year we manufacture four billion tons of cement, two billion tons of steel, pump 4.5 billion tons of oil from the ground, and release 35 billion tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Whether you consider that a problem depends on whether you think the waste is damaging (like CO2) or largely harmless, like concrete.

Plastics, furthermore, have real advantages over the alternatives. They're light, largely inert, and in many cases do less environmental damage than metal and glass (whose carbon footprint tends to be higher) and even paper (whose effluent pollutes fresh water).

Packaging, the main bogeyman for consumers, only comprises about 31% of the plastics we consume. The rest is split between a dizzying array of uses, from water pipes to car dashboards, domestic appliances, clothing and medical devices. Our reflexive dislike of polymers blinds us to the countless ways modern life would be impossible without them.

All that said, with each passing year we see more studies showing how plastics are accumulating in the natural environment and the tissues of humans, animals and plants. Hard evidence of the harm this causes is scant, but the pathways are well understood—from toxic additives that can be leached out over time, to pollutants absorbed in the environment the way static picks up dust, and then released deep inside the body. Few regret the precautionary approach that previous generations took in the face of early evidence about the harmful effects from tobacco, ozone-depleting chemicals or greenhouse gasses. Given the immense difficulty we will have reining in our polymer habit, a similarly proactive policy makes sense.

By DAVID FICKLING
Bloomberg Opinion



David Fickling is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering climate change and energy. Previously, he worked for Bloomberg News, the Wall Street Journal and the Financial Times.

What would a global cap on plastics production look like? It's unlikely to be the most important part of any upcoming treaty. The setting of international standards to eliminate toxic additives like BPA and phthalates (used to make polymers, respectively, more rigid and more flexible) will likely make the biggest difference to human and animal health. Efforts to standardize production processes to ease recycling will have more of an impact on the environment. Support for waste management in fast-growing emerging economies will have the largest bearing on marine pollution. A hard cap, however, could be the sort of difficult-to-achieve target that concentrates minds and unlocks human ingenuity.

Those reductions shouldn't be impossible to achieve. Most would argue that Japan and South Korea have comparable living standards to the U.S., but the latter consumes two-and-a-half times as much plastics per capita. If the world as a whole could reduce our usage to roughly the level China sees today and increase reuse toward the rates at which the European Union recycles polymer packaging, we might hold production of new plastics below 500 million tons a year.

That might not sound like much, but it would still be a phenomenal achievement, especially when put against forecasts by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development that we might be heading to more than double those levels.

If you think it's been hard dethroning fossil fuels' centrality to our energy system, be prepared for many decades of struggle. Electricity from wind, solar, batteries and nuclear power provides a compelling alternative to coal, gas and oil. There are few substitutes waiting in the wings that could repeat that trick with polymers. Plastics are woven through the fabric of modern life quite as intricately as their waste materials are scattered through the natural environment. It won't be easy to replace them, but the first step is to try.

Trump's proposal to make overtime pay tax-exempt obscures how awful he was for all workers

By MICHAEL HILTZIK
Los Angeles Times

Michael Hiltzik is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times.



Donald Trump, in his determined effort to claim the mantle of friend of the working man and woman, unveiled a proposal the other day to make overtime pay tax-exempt.

"People who work overtime are among the hardest-working citizens of our country, and for too long, no one in Washington has been looking out for them," he told a rally in Tucson.

Let's be blunt about something here: Anyone who buys Trump's pose about this is the mark in a con game. Trump's claim that no one in Washington has been looking out for overtime workers was never as true as it was during the Trump administration, which slashed overtime protections for more than 8.2 million workers.

Trump's Department of Labor was a black hole for worker rights. The agency abandoned an Obama administration policy that would have favored more than 4.2 million workers. The Biden administration restored the Obama rule and went further.

And that was just on overtime. As president, observed economic commentator Pedro Nicolaci da Costa in 2019, Trump pursued "the most hostile anti-labor agenda of any modern president."

Before exploring Trump's manipulation of overtime regulations, let's examine his overall record on workers' rights.

In 2019, Trump appointed as his Secretary of Labor Eugene Scalia, son of the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. The new labor secretary had made his career as a corporate lawyer fighting pro-worker policies. In 2012, the Wall Street Journal had labeled him one of the financial industry's "go-to guys for challenging financial regulations."

Scalia had helped Walmart overturn a Maryland law mandating minimum contributions by big employers for workers' healthcare, defended SeaWorld against workplace safety charges after a park trainer was killed by an orca (he lost that case), and had written extensively against a federal regulation expanding ergonomic safety requirements.

He had written that the latter rule, proposed by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, "would require businesses to slow the pace of production, hire more workers, increase rest periods and redesign workstations or even entire operations."

No legitimate candidate for secretary of Labor would have regarded that policy as a bad thing, but Scalia condemned it in print as "the most costly and intrusive regulation in (OSHA's) history."

Scalia's predecessor as secretary, Alexander Acosta, had gone to Congress to oppose measures to raise the federal minimum wage, which has been stuck at $7.25 an hour since 2009 to $15 in steps. It shouldn't need mentioning that this was an extraordinary position for a secretary of Labor to take.

(Acosta, it may be remembered, lost his job after revelations about his role in soft-pedaling sex-trafficking charges against Jeffrey Epstein produced a political uproar.)

Trump remade the National Labor Relations Board along the same lines. In a key move, his NLRB scrapped the effort under Obama to expand the definition of "joint employer," which would have made big franchisees such as McDonald's jointly liable with their franchisees for violations of employees' wage and hour rights.

The Trump NLRB's proposed definition would narrow the joint-employer standard "to the point at which many workers would find it nearly impossible to bring all firms with the power to influence their wages and working conditions to the bargaining table," according to the labor-oriented Economic Policy Institute.

Put it all together, and Trump had turned the Department of Labor into the "Dept. of Employer Rights," I wrote.

Now to the overtime rules. As my colleague James Rainey reported Sunday, Trump's proposal to make overtime pay tax-exempt was part of a passel of purported tax cuts for the working class, including tax exemptions for tips and Social Security benefits, all of which economists saw as "gimmicks" and "shams."

In 2016, Obama had raised the ceiling making salaried workers eligible for time-and-a-half overtime—that is, working hours exceeding 40 hours per week—to $47,476 in annual wages, up from $23,660. The ceiling would be adjusted regularly to overall wage growth. Hourly workers typically get overtime after 40 hours, but salaried workers receive overtime pay if their wages are below the ceiling.

The Obama administration's idea was to narrow the practice of low-wage employers to designate workers as "managers" to exempt them from the OT rule while paying them an hourly wage. (That's why fast-food restaurants are always suspiciously loaded with "general managers, assistant managers, night managers, managers for opening and closing and delivery," as former New York prosecutor Terri Gerstein observed in 2019.)

It was estimated that the new rule would give 4.2 million workers new overtime protection.

The Obama rule was blocked by a federal judge in Texas. When Trump came into office, his Labor Department refused to defend the rule in court. Instead, the agency proposed a new rule reducing the wage ceiling to only $35,568. That was nearly $20,000 below the level that would have been reached by the Obama rule, as it was adjusted for wage inflation. The Trump rule was not indexed.

Some 8.2 million workers who would have gained OT protection under Obama were left behind by the Trump rule, Heidi Shierholz of the pro-labor Economic Policy Institute calculated. They would be deprived of a combined $1.4 billion in pay annually.

The 8.2 million workers left behind, Shierholz estimated, included "4.2 million women, 3.0 million people of color, 4.7 million workers without a college degree, and 2.7 million parents of children under the age of 18."

The Biden administration restored the Obama rule, and then some. The new rule set the ceiling at $844 per week, or $43,888 for a full-time hourly worker, as of July 1.

On Jan. 1, the salary ceiling will rise to $1,128 per week, or $58,656 annually. After that, it will be indexed every three years. The new rule will benefit an estimated 4.3 million workers, more than half of whom are women and about one-fifth workers of color.

Among the largest groups of affected workers, EPI estimates, are those in healthcare and social services.

Whether Trump has sat down to map out a pro-worker policy is doubtful in the extreme — it's not a concern he has ever displayed in the past. He appears to have blurted out the overtime policy as part of what the Irish writer Fintan O'Toole aptly describes as "the surreal bricolage of his rally speeches."

But a clue can be found in "Project 2025," a road map for a second Trump term drafted by the right-wing Heritage Foundation. (Trump claims to have nothing to do with this 900-page tome, but no one really believes him.)

Project 2025 would shrink overtime coverage materially. It advocates cutting the compensation subject to time-and-a-half to salary only, excluding pay for such benefits as healthcare, retirement, education, child care or paid meals. Under existing law, the only compensation that can be excluded from the calculation is pay for expenses a worker pays on the employer's behalf, discretionary bonuses, gifts on special occasions, and vacation and sick pay.

The Project also advocates indexing the ceiling once every five years rather than three years, which would slow its rate of growth, and index the ceiling to consumer inflation, which tends to grow slower than wage inflation, the current index.

The Project also advocates allowing employers to calculate overtime hours over two or four weeks rather than weekly, which would allow them to require workers to put in more than 40 hours some weeks and make it up in others. That sounds like an open invitation to employer manipulation of work schedules.

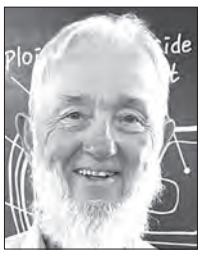
Trump's record on worker rights is clear as day. Do you really think he'll be looking out for the men and women in the rank and file?

P.U.L.L. Please: Potfabot P.U.L.L. (acrostic advice for all able adults)

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey Connolly aka "Pepe Batbon" is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is the Poet Laureate of Tinian and enjoys stargazing.



Between the Immensities

Peace is an absolute worldwide necessity
Understanding takes lots of time and effort
Love the one you're with and family next
Life is funny life is free live long and love it

Please be patient with others viewpoints
Learn how to cook all kinds of food
Educate yourself about your body and mind
Assume nothing is real until you fact check
Stay on most things until you finish them
Eat slowly and enjoy the food you eat

Put peace unity love and laughter in daily life
Use common sense where humanly possible
Learn to be tolerant of others' differences
Laughter helps the whole world go around

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Judiciary's concerns with FY 2025 budget

Dear Madame President and Mr. Speaker:

We write to express serious concerns regarding Section 703(e) of the House Budget Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2025, which prohibits the expenditure of any funds, including those obtained from outside sources, for costs related to judges or justices pro tempore. This prohibition encompasses salaries, travel, lodging, and other necessary expenses. The Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs has amended this section to allow expenditures relative to any cases being conducted remotely by electronic means. Even with this exception, Section 703(e) threatens the impartiality and efficiency of cases before the courts of the Commonwealth.

Section 703(e) directly contradicts Article IV, Section 9 of the Commonwealth Constitution, which grants the Chief Justice the authority to designate, as needed, active or former justices or judges from the Commonwealth or certain other jurisdictions to serve as pro tempore justices or judges. This provision is essential to ensuring the continued and efficient operation of the courts, particularly when regular judges are unavailable or have conflicts of interest.

By eliminating funding for judges and justices pro tempore, Section 703(e) effectively prevents the Judiciary from exercising this constitutional authority. Without the ability to pay or cover expenses for judges pro tempore, the courts will be unable to address case backlogs or handle matters in which regular judges are disqualified. This will severely impede the administration of justice and deny timely resolution of cases to the people of the Commonwealth.

The prohibition in Section 703(e) thus undermines a critical judicial function and violates the constitutional mandate that empowers the Chief Justice to appoint judges and justices pro tempore. It places the Judiciary in a position where it cannot fulfill its duty to provide justice in a timely and efficient manner. We respectfully urge the Legislature to reconsider Section 703(e) and to ensure that the Judiciary retains its ability to appoint and compensate judges and justices pro tempore. This is necessary to uphold the constitutional framework and maintain the effective functioning of our courts.

Additionally, Section 707(c) of the House Budget Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2025 remits $641,011 to the Second Senatorial District from the current funds available in the Justice Center Fund, and the remaining funds to the Department of Public Safety. However, the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs has removed this language. The Judiciary respectfully asks that the removal of this language be maintained in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget.

In recent years, the Judiciary has established treatment courts such as Drug Court and Mental Health Court Docket and is in the process of exploring the creation of a Veterans Court. The evolving needs of these treatment courts demand more space, which the Justice Center Fund can support. Importantly, the funds in this revolving account are not limited to Saipan and the Judicial Branch; they will also be used to construct a new courthouse on the island of Tinian, as well as make improvements to the Rota Centron Hustisia, and to support the construction of new facilities for the Executive Branch's Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the Public Defender. If these funds are remitted and depleted, it is unclear when, if ever, these important initiatives can move forward.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We are confident that we can work together to address this issue in a way that ensures the continued administration of justice in the Commonwealth.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Olomwaay,

Alexandro C. Castro
Chief Justice

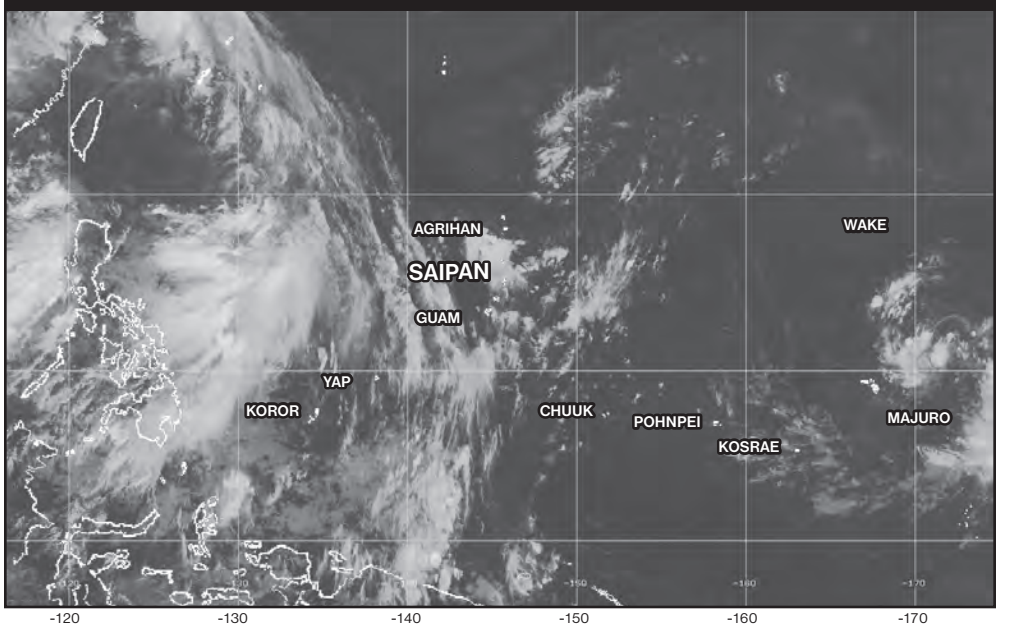
Roberto C. Naraja
Presiding Judge

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers.	Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers.	Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers.
86° 78°	87° 78°	86° 76°	86° 76°	86° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:04 AM THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 , 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak trough and an upper-level low are combining to bring scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms to the Marianas today. Overnight the showers should diminish to isolated. Combined seas have dropped to 4 to 6 feet, and could reach 3 to 5 feet over the weekend. A moderate risk of rip currents along east and west reefs could become low along all reefs at some point. Overall little change in the forecast, everything looked to be in good shape.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Cloudy	83° / 77°
Palau	Cloudy	85° / 77°
Yap	Cloudy	85° / 80°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	86° / 76°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86° / 76°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:14 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:13 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:13 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:53 AM	7:54 PM
Saturday	-	8:55 AM	8:41 PM
Sunday	-	9:58 AM	9:32 PM
Monday	-	11:01 AM	10:26 PM
Tuesday	-	12:04 PM	11:24 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	61° / 52°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	84° / 63°
Hong Kong	Showers	91° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Showers	61° / 45°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	74° / 63°
Manila	Cloudy	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	54° / 37°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	87° / 80°
New York	Showers	82° / 68°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	82° / 66°
Paris	Thunderstorms	63° / 45°
Busan	Showers	75° / 72°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	79° / 66°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	87° / 68°
San Francisco	Sunny	68° / 57°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	81° / 61°
Tokyo	Cloudy	73° / 64°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	83° / 67°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:57 AM	Low Tide	0.24
9:01 AM	High Tide	2.11
3:16 PM	Low Tide	0.54
8:57 PM	High Tide	2.08

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Sep 2-8
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 6, 7 Sep 9-15
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily Sep 16-22
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 7 Sep 23-29
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3471	5:50PM	9:30PM	Sep 15-18

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	3:05AM	6:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	10:00PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3472	11:00AM	4:40PM	Sep 15-18
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	7 Sep 1
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 7 Sep 2-8
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	1, 5, 6, 7 Sep 9-15
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily Sep 16-22
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	1, 7 Sep 23-29
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	6:25PM	1:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan is SAIPANTASTIC!

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan is excited to announce a range of new updates and special promotions that will elevate your dining experience, whether you're a local or just visiting. From new culinary leadership to exciting menu offerings and new specials, there's something for everyone!

We're thrilled to welcome our new executive chef, Chris Adams, to the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan team. Adams has introduced a refreshed menu to The Terrace Restaurant with international flavors, featuring a local fusion station, Asian station, Western station, and much more. And for dessert lovers, our gelato station is an absolute must-visit! Families will also enjoy our dedicated Kids Corner, making dining fun for all ages.



CPRS

The Terrace Restaurant features international flavors, featuring a local fusion station, Asian station, Western station, and much more.

To make the most of your dining experience, be sure to join The Terrace Club Saipan. Download our app from the App Store or Google Play Store and enjoy exclusive discounts and earn points every time you dine with us. Plus, new members receive a one-time $25 voucher for dining at The Terrace Restaurant.

For something sweet, stop by Market Place at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, where we're offering delicious gelato in waffle cones for just $4.50, available daily from 11am to 7pm. Additionally, we are proud to introduce our new senior pastry chef Jody O'Sullivan, who will soon offer specialty cake orders and consultations. In the meantime, don't miss our September specials, including a Calamansi Cheesecake slice for $5 and a chocolate milkshake for $6. Be sure to snap a photo with our charming Market Place bike for the perfect Instagram moment and tag us for a chance to be featured on our social accounts!

At Mari Bar, exciting things are happening every Saturday from 5pm to 8pm with our Beach Market. Savor grilled favorites like jumbo prawns, BBQ short ribs, BBQ skewers and more, paired perfectly with a cold beer, cocktail slushies, or a glass of wine. And for those with a hearty thirst, we're introducing a 1L beer for just $13 during Beach Market events—bigger pours mean bigger cheers!



CPRS

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan new executive chef Chris Adams.



CPRS

Savor grilled favorites like jumbo prawns, BBQ short ribs, BBQ skewers, and more, paired perfectly with a cold beer, cocktail slushies, or a glass of wine at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's Mari Bar.

Lastly, we're hosting a special Instagram giveaway! Follow us at @crowneplazaresortsaipan and @theterraceclubsaipan for a chance to win an exclusive New Year's Eve package that includes a One Night Stay in our Oceanfront Suite Room, Dinner and dance for two, along with breakfast for two at The Terrace Restaurant. Don't miss your chance to win and join the giveaway now!

With these exciting updates, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan is the perfect destination for a SAIPANTASTIC dining experience. Join us at our restaurants and bars today and discover something new and delicious at the island's one and only, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan!

For reservations and inquiries, email restaurants.cprsaipan@ihg.com or call at (670) 234-6412. For more information and updates, follow us on social media, Instagram and Facebook @crowneplazaresortsaipan.

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan is a 422-room hotel located in Garapan. Guests will be greeted by the resort's lush tropical gardens and panoramic view of Micro Beach, with Crowne Plaza's warm and friendly hospitality ensuring a seamless arrival. ***(PR)***

Atkins Kroll supports MINA's Green Gala

Atkins Kroll, Inc. proud to announce a $1,000 donation to the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance Green Gala as a Turquoise Sponsor. This sponsorship aligns with AK's promise to be "Here for Saipan, Here for Life," as the company actively supports the conservation of the islands' natural beauty and resources.

MINA is a non-profit organization dedicated to environmental stewardship in the Mariana Islands. Since its founding in 2005, MINA has engaged the community in various programs, including plastics recycling, marine debris prevention, beach cleanups, tree planting, marine protected areas, educational events, and youth development.

AK believes in the importance of collaborative efforts and fresh thinking to create a sustainable future for the community and environment. By supporting MINA's Green Gala, AK is proud to contribute to these vital conservation efforts.

Atkins Kroll, an Inchcape company, is the leading distributor of vehicles in Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Micronesia enabling it to provide a full range of products and services in the region. Atkins Kroll is Guam's oldest corporation established in 1914 and represents Toyota, Lexus, BMW, Chevrolet, Toyota Rent A Car, Avis, Budget and Payless Rental Car, and AC Delco brands. In December 2021 Atkins Kroll acquired Morrico Equipment, one of Guam's largest heavy equipment dealerships representing Freightliner, Hyundai Construction Equipment, Kohler Power Systems, Rosenbauer Fire Trucks and Thomas Built School Buses. Morrico Equipment operates new and used heavy equipment sales, rental, parts, diesel fuel delivery, Trashco Guam, and specialized diesel repair service to Guam, the CNMI, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. ***(PR)***



AK

From left, Toyota Sales associates Kimmy Calage and Liza Taylor, Atkins Kroll Saipan general manager Tracy Guerrero, MINA executive director Roberta Guerrero, MINA staff Becky Furey, and Toyota Sales associates Kevin Ada and Didi Woodruff.

GRMC launches Cardiac Rehab Program

Guam Regional Medical City proudly announces the launch of its Cardiac Rehab Program, a specialized service aimed at helping patients recover from heart conditions like heart attacks, heart failure, or heart surgery. The program is designed with the people of Guam in mind, providing personalized support to guide them through their recovery journey and back to healthy, active lives.

Heart disease is one of the leading causes of illness and death, touching many families across the island. The Cardiac Rehab Program is GRMC's response to this growing challenge, offering each patient the tools and guidance they need to regain strength and confidence after a heart event.

This isn't just about recovery—it's about giving patients the resources to stay "heart-healthy" long term. The program focuses on empowering patients to make healthy lifestyle choices that develop lasting habits for long-term wellness.

The program is delivered by a compassionate team of healthcare professionals, including physicians, pharmacists, nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech and language pathologists, behavioral therapists, and dietitians. Together, they collaboratively create a plan that is unique to each patient.

"Our goal is simple: help patients recover and give them the confidence to live healthier, longer lives. We want them to know they're not alone in this journey," said GRMC interventional cardiologist, Dr. Maheswara "Mahesh" Satya Golla. "With personalized care, we focus on reducing future risks and making sure our patients feel empowered and supported every step of the way."

GRMC's Cardiac Rehab program consists of three essential phases:

■ PHASE 1: IN-HOSPITAL REHAB

In the first phase, patients engage in non-strenuous exercises, focusing on range of motion, guided by therapists and nurses. Patients will learn how to get their body moving, encouraging the heart to pump more, which helps improve circulation and reduce recovery time.

■ PHASE 2: OUTPATIENT REHAB

The second phase is assessment–focused on identifying limitations and restrictions in physical function. Patients will learn how to manage risk factors such as high blood pressure, cholesterol, and stress. Guidance on making heart-healthy nutrition choices is also implemented.

■ PHASE 3: POST-CARDIAC REHAB MAINTENANCE

The final phase involves more independence and self-monitoring. It centers on increasing flexibility, strength, and cardiovascular endurance. Patients are encouraged to continue regular physical activity and maintain healthy habits.

Golla adds that it's more than just a treatment—it's a lifestyle change that helps patients adopt healthy habits that last.

You may benefit if you have or have experienced a:

■ Heart attack

■ Heart condition, such as coronary artery disease (CAD); angina; or heart failure

■ Heart procedure or surgery

To extend this support to the community, GRMC offers heart health education through initiatives like the "Health Tips Series" on social media, the "Your Healthcare Partner" series on the Ray Gibson radio show, and the free "Walk with GRMC" event every Thursday morning from 9am to 10am at the Micronesia Mall Center Court. These efforts are aimed at encouraging Heart Strong–healthier living and raising awareness about how small changes can make a big difference in your health.

The community is encouraged to learn more about the program by visiting https://www.grmc.gu/cardiac-rehabilitation/ or following GRMC @grmcguam on Facebook and Instagram.

For referrals or inquiries, providers can contact GRMC's Referral Management at (671) 633-4762 or email refer@grmc.gu. ***(PR)***

Nation

Harris criticizes Trump's vow of mass deportations



AP
Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris speaks at the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) Leadership Conference, at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2024.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Vice President Kamala Harris on Wednesday criticized Republican Donald Trump 's promise to deport millions of people who are in the United States illegally, questioning whether he would rely on massive raids and detention camps to carry it out.

» As Trump rallies on Long Island

Harris, the Democratic presidential nominee, told the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute's annual leadership conference that the nation can find both a pathway to citizenship for those who want to come and at the same time secure the border.

"We can do both, and we must do both," she said.

Trump, for his part, leaned heavily on his alarmist message on immigration as he held a rally in Uniondale on New York's Long Island, focusing the bulk of his remarks on the subject.

"We're just destroying the fabric of life in our country. And we're not going to take it any longer. And you got to get rid of these people. Give me a shot," Trump said.

Both candidates took a break Wednesday from campaigning in the toss-up states that will likely decide the Nov. 5 election. The former president drew a large, roaring crowd, giving him a chance to show deep support even in a blue state.

He ripped into Democratic leadership in New York City and state, blaming them for homeless people living in what he called "horrible, disgusting, dangerous, filthy encampments," and even the conditions on the New York City subway, which he called "squalid and unsafe" and promised to renovate.

"What the hell do you have to lose?" he said in asking for their votes.

Before heading out to the suburbs, Trump stopped at a Bitcoin cafe in New York City. Trump has recently embraced cryptocurrency and on Monday night helped launch his family's new cryptocurrency venture.

Harris harked back to the Trump administration's immigration policies as she bid for Hispanic support.

Residents of Springfield hunker down, pray for political firestorm to blow over

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio (AP)—In the quiet corners of Springfield, Ohio—out of sight of the drumbeat of politicians and journalists, troopers and newly installed security cameras—the people who live here are taking a breath, praying and attempting to carry on.

Between the morning bomb sweeps of Springfield's schools and the near daily afternoon media briefings, a hush comes over the city of 58,000 that residents say is uncanny, haunting even. It's fear. It's confusion—dismay at being transformed overnight into a target for the nation's vitriol.

Pastor Andy Mobley, who runs the Family Needs Inc. food pantry on the city's south side, said people are hunkered down out of the public eye. He said they're hoping the attention sparked by former President Donald Trump spreading unsubstantiated rumors about the city's legal Haitian immigrants eating house pets during last week's presidential debate will blow over.

Trump and his vice presidential running mate, Ohio's junior Sen. JD Vance, have used the cat-eating rumors to draw attention to the city's 15,000 Haitian immigrants, whose arrival to fill manufacturing, distribution and warehouse jobs has put a severe strain on local resources.

Since the Republican candidates' initial comments, more than two dozen bomb threats—mostly from foreign actors seeking to sow discord—have prompted the state to send in additional state troopers and install surveillance cameras around the city in order to reopen schools and government buildings.

"We've got good people here. Republican, Democrat. They're good people," Mobley said Tuesday, as the pantry tended to a steady stream of clients seeking clothing and food.

Resident Josh Valle said the situation is unsettling.

"We definitely need answers," said the 35-year-old tool and die repairman, who has lived in Springfield for decades. "It's affecting my kids and my community and my neighbors. With the bomb threats and the influx, it's something new every day. And this used to be a really chill town, you know, it used to be just a small town Ohio."

The area around Springfield City Hall, where Valle spoke, sat largely silent Tuesday afternoon, until a news conference with state and local officials prompted a brief swarm of activity. Local families are avoiding schools in the wake of earlier bomb threats, even though dozens of troopers have fanned out across the Springfield City School District to stand guard. Some 200 of 500 students were absent Tuesday from a single elementary school, officials said.

World

Lebanon rocked again by exploding devices

BEIRUT (AP)—Walkie-talkies and solar equipment exploded in Beirut and other parts of Lebanon on Wednesday in an apparent second wave of attacks targeting devices a day after pagers used by Hezbollah blew up, state media and officials for the militant group said. At least 20 people were killed and more than 450 wounded in the second wave, the Health Ministry said.

The attacks—which were widely believed to be carried out by Israel targeting Hezbollah but have also killed civilians—have hiked fears that the two sides' simmering conflict could escalate into all-out war.

Speaking to Israeli troops on Wednesday, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said, "We are at the start of a new phase in the war—it requires courage, determination and perseverance." He made no mention of the exploding devices but praised the work of Israel's army and security agencies, saying "the results are very impressive."

In Wednesday's attacks, several blasts were heard at a funeral in Beirut for three Hezbollah members and a child killed by exploding pagers the day before, according to Associated Press journalists at the scene. An AP photographer in the southern coastal city of Sidon saw a car and a mobile phone shop damaged after devices exploded inside of them. A girl was hurt in the south when a home solar energy system blew up, the state news agency reported.

The new blasts hit a country still roiling with confusion and anger after Tuesday's pager bombings, which killed at least 12 people, including two children, and wounded some 2,800 others.

The second wave also deepens concern over the potentially indiscriminate casualties caused in the attacks, in which hundreds of blasts went off wherever the holder of the pager happened to be—in homes, cars, at grocery stores and in cafes, often with family or bystanders nearby.

While the pagers were used by Hezbollah members, there was no guarantee who was holding the device at the time it was detonated. Also, many of the casualties were not Hezbollah fighters, but members of the group's extensive civilian operations mainly serving Lebanon's Shiite community.

At least two health workers were among those killed Tuesday. Doctors, nurses, paramedics, charity workers, teachers and office administrators work for Hezbollah-linked organizations, and an unknown number had pagers.

Mary Ellen O'Connell, a professor of law and international peace studies at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, said booby-traps are banned under international law. "Weaponizing an object used by civilians is strictly prohibited," she said.

The U.N. human rights chief, Volker Türk, called for an independent investigation into the mass explosions, saying, "The fear and terror unleashed is profound."

The U.N. Security Council scheduled an emergency meeting on the explosions in Lebanon on Friday afternoon at the request of Algeria, the Arab representative on the powerful 15-member body.

Iran-backed Hezbollah—Lebanon's strongest armed force—has exchanged fire with Israel's military almost daily since Oct. 8, the day after a deadly Hamas-led assault in southern Israel triggered the war in Gaza. Since then, hundreds have been killed in strikes in Lebanon and dozens in Israel, while tens of thousands on each side of the border have been displaced. Hezbollah said its strikes are in support of its ally, Hamas.

Hezbollah announced three strikes on parts of northern Israel Wednesday, at least one of which took place after the latest round of explosions in Lebanon.

US wants more clarity from Ukraine on possible use of long-range weapons

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Biden administration still is not convinced that it should give Ukraine the authority to launch long-range missiles deeper into Russia, and U.S. officials say they are seeking more detailed information about how Kyiv would use the weapons and how they fit into the broader strategy for the war.

U.S. officials said they have asked Ukraine to spell out more clearly its combat objectives, as President Joe Biden prepares to meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy next week.

Administration officials are concerned that loosening restrictions on the use of the weapons would have limited impact and come with great risk. Russian President Vladimir Putin last week warned that Russia would be "at war" with the United States and its NATO allies if they allow Ukraine to use the long-range weapons.

U.S. defense officials have repeatedly argued that the long-range missiles are limited in number and that Ukraine already is using its own long-range drones to hit targets farther into Russia. That capability was evidenced by a Ukrainian drone strike overnight that hit a large military depot, causing a huge blaze, in a town 500 kilometers (300 miles) from the border.

Ukrainian leaders, however, say they need permission to strike weapons depots, airfields and military bases far from the border to motivate Russia to seek peace. The U.S. allows Ukraine to use American-provided weapons in more limited, cross-border strikes to counter attacks by Russian forces.

The U.S. is coming under mounting pressure from NATO allies who believe Ukraine should be the one to decide how and where it uses the weapons and how it fights its own war. A senior U.S. official said the subject came up during meetings of NATO defense chiefs in Europe over the weekend—attended by Gen. CQ Brown, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff—and that most advocated in favor of the change.

The U.S. officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

Ukraine is pressing to use U.S.-supplied Army Tactical Missile Systems, or ATACMS, and British-supplied Storm Shadow missiles to hit deeper into Russia. Biden discussed the issue during a meeting last week with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

U.S. officials familiar with discussions said they believed Starmer was seeking Biden's approval to allow Ukraine to use the Storm Shadow missiles for expanded strikes in Russia. Biden's approval may be needed because Storm Shadow components are made in the U.S. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to share the status of private conversations.

Starmer said talks would continue when global leaders convene for the U.N. General Assembly gathering next week. Biden's meeting with Zelenskyy is expected to happen late next week after the U.S. president returns from the U.N.

Life & Style

Sean 'Diddy' Combs will stay in jail after bail denied for 2nd time

NEW YORK (AP)—Sean "Diddy" Combs is staying locked up after a judge Wednesday rejected the hip-hop mogul's proposal that he await his sex trafficking trial in the luxury of his Florida mansion instead of a grim Brooklyn federal jail.

U.S. District Judge Andrew L. Carter ruled that Combs' plan—which included a $50 million bail offer, GPS monitoring and strict limitations on visitors—was "insufficient" to ensure the safety of the community and the integrity of his case.

Carter, agreeing with prosecutors who fought to keep Combs in jail, found that "no condition or set of conditions" governing his release could guard against the risk of him threatening or harming witnesses—a central charge in his case.

Combs' lawyers were making their second attempt in as many days to spring him from the Metropolitan Detention Center, where he has been held since pleading not guilty Tuesday to charges he physically and sexually abused women for years.

Combs has been in federal custody since his arrest Monday night at a Manhattan hotel. A federal magistrate on Tuesday rejected Combs' initial bail request. On Wednesday, he and his lawyers struck out with Carter, the judge who will preside over his trial.

Defense lawyer Marc Agnifilo says he will now ask the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to overturn Carter's ruling and release Combs. In the meantime, he wants Combs moved from the Brooklyn lockup, which has been plagued by rampant violence and horrific conditions, to a jail in New Jersey. Carter said decisions on placement are entirely up to the federal Bureau of Prisons.

"I'm not going to let him sit in that jail a day longer than he has to," Agnifilo said to reporters outside the courtroom.

Combs looked at family members and tapped his heart several times as Wednesday's hearing began, then sat stoically as he listened to arguments. Afterward, as federal agents led him away, his relatives somberly embraced and exchanged hand slaps.

Combs, 54, is accused in an indictment of using his "power and prestige" to induce female victims and male sex workers into drugged-up, elaborately produced sexual performances dubbed "Freak Offs" that Combs arranged, participated in and often recorded on video. The events would sometimes last days and Combs and victims would often receive IV fluids to recover, the indictment said.



AP

In this courtroom sketch, Sean Combs, seated right, looks at his attorney, Marc Agnifilo, left, as he delivers his bail argument as Combs' family in the gallery, background, raise their hands indicating to Judge Tarnofsky that they are in attendance, to bolster the defense attorney's bail argument, Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2024, in Manhattan Federal Court in New York.

The indictment alleges Combs coerced and abused women for years, with the help of a network of associates and employees, while using blackmail and violent acts including kidnapping, arson and physical beatings to keep victims from speaking out.

Arguing to keep Combs in jail, prosecutor Emily Johnson told Carter that the once-celebrated rapper has a long history of intimidating both accusers and witnesses to his alleged abuse. She cited text messages from women who said Combs forced them into "Freak Offs" and then threatened to leak videos of them engaging in sex acts.

Johnson said Combs' defense team was "minimizing and horrifically understating" Combs' propensity for violence, taking issue with his lawyer's portrayal of a 2016 assault at a Los Angeles hotel as a lovers' quarrel. Security video of the event, which only came to light in May, showed Combs hitting and kicking his then-girlfriend, the R&B singer Cassie, in a hotel hallway.

"What's love got to do with that?" an incredulous Carter asked.

Johnson also seized on a text message from a woman who said Combs dragged her down a hallway by her hair. According to Johnson, the woman told the rapper: "I'm not a rag doll, I'm someone's child."

"There is a longstanding pattern of abuse here," Johnson said.

MrBeast, Amazon sued by competitors from his $5M reality show over alleged 'unsafe' conditions

NEW YORK (AP)—MrBeast is accused of creating "unsafe" employment conditions, including sexual harassment, and misrepresenting contestants' odds at winning his new Amazon reality show's $5 million grand prize in a lawsuit filed Tuesday by five unnamed participants.

The filing alleges that the multimillion-dollar company behind YouTube's most popular channel failed to provide minimum wages, overtime pay, uninterrupted meal breaks and rest time for competitors—whose "work on the show was the entertainment product" sold by MrBeast.

A spokesperson for MrBeast, whose real name is Jimmy Donaldson, told The Associated Press in an email that he had no comment on the new lawsuit.

Donaldson's "Beast Games" was touted as the "biggest reality competition." It was supposed to put the North Carolina content creator in front of audiences beyond the YouTube platform where his record 316 million subscribers routinely watch his whimsical challenges that often carry lavish gifts of direct cash.

But its initial Las Vegas shoot began facing criticism before it even wrapped. Donaldson's companies cast 2,000 people in an initial tryout this July where half could advance to the actual show's filming in Toronto.



Donaldson

Contestants only learned upon their arrival that the Las Vegas pool surpassed 1,000 competitors, according to the lawsuit, which significantly reducing their chances of victory. The lawsuit argues the "false advertising" violated California business laws that prohibit sweepstakes operators from "misrepresenting in any manner the odds of winning any prize."

The five anonymous competitors also said that "limited sustenance" and "insufficient medical staffing" endangered their health.

The filing alleges that production staff created a "toxic" work environment for women who faced "sexual harassment" throughout the contest. Those sections are heavily redacted in an effort to comply with "confidentiality provisions" signed by the competitors, according to a press release from their lawyers.

The lawsuit adds to the complaints—circulated by online influencers in the shoot's immediate aftermath—that an unorganized set had left some contestants injured and lacking in regular access to food and medication. Other participants have told AP they received two light meals each day and MrBeast branded chocolate bars.

MrBeast's team also faces new accusations they "knowingly misclassified" the contestants' employment status to the Nevada Film Commission in order to receive a state tax credit for more than $2 million.

Helping people has become a full-time job for friend

DEAR ABBY: I enjoy helping my friends, my partner and family members. I feel doing good deeds is important in my retirement. My hands are pretty full with getting my elderly dad to medical visits, and I also visit him three times a week. I also have older single friends I do things for, such as occasionally dropping off meals and running errands.

Lately, I have been asked to provide transportation to medical appointments for no less than three of these friends. One, in particular, is more of a friend of my partner. Nevertheless, she expects a lot of me. I feel taking care of my dad and my partner keeps me busy enough. I feel pressured by these other friends. If I say no to them, I feel guilty.

How do I gracefully bow out with these folks? One of them has implied I'm not a good friend if I don't help them get to the doctor, sit with their dog, etc. She never seems to remember past good deeds and loves to start arguments with everyone (she only has one or two friends left). Any advice?

WEARY MAN IN WISCONSIN

DEAR WEARY MAN: For some folks, it's only a short step from being a people-pleaser to being a doormat. You have been kind and helpful; now it's time to start helping yourself. You shouldn't feel guilty for saying no to entitled individuals. The woman you described is one of them, so don't expect her to be grateful for the time and effort you have already given.

Developing the ability to say no is similar to weightlifting. Start small, work your way up, and in a short time, you will have developed the muscle. Try it. You'll like it.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I met on the debate team in high school. We would get into heated debates about every topic, and I think it was one of the things he loved most about me.

Fast-forward 14 years and a couple of children later, and I don't have the fire in me to debate "oranges vs. strawberries" anymore. Every time I state a simple opinion, he tries to engage in a debate, but he goes from zero to 100 in a minute and forgets to listen to my opinion. I have taken to "letting him win" just to shut him up because I don't want to hear it. He gets frustrated when I do this and always says that it's what we used to do.

Abby, my priorities have changed. I'm calmer than I used to be, and most of my attention is focused on our kids. I'm tired of the constant arguing, but I know he enjoys it. Please help me find a common ground with my husband.

NO FIGHT LEFT IN ME

DEAR NO FIGHT: Some couples enjoy contention as a form of foreplay. If you haven't told your husband what you have related to me, it is important that you do. Since "debating" has been an established pattern in your marital relationship, you may need a licensed marriage and family therapist to help you get your message across, because your husband may have difficulty adjusting to the change in how you communicate.

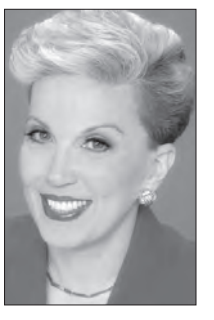
■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



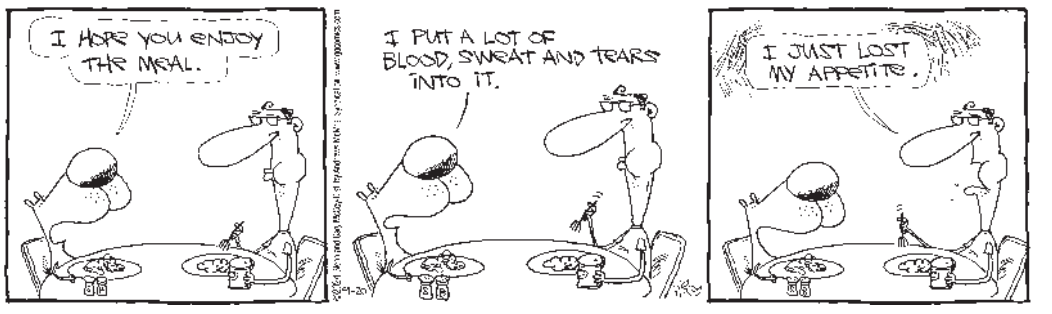
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Chops finely
6 Three, in Rome
9 Flavor enhancer, for short
12 Orange variety
13 Teeny
14 Green prefix
15 Financial guru Suze
16 Rorschach pattern
18 Firstborn
20 Border on
21 Director Brooks
23 Used a chair
24 Red Cross founder Barton
25 Cupid's alias
27 Answers an invitation
29 Wicker material
31 Chalkboard accessory
35 English county
37 Coffee cups
38 Oodles
41 Crosses (out)
43 Droid
44 Suffix for billion
45 Chess piece
47 Ranch area
49 Grace of "Will & Grace"
52 SASE, e.g.
53 Hydrocarbon ending
54 Hotelier Helmsley
55 Concorde, e.g.
56 Pantheon member
57 Beauty magnate Lauder

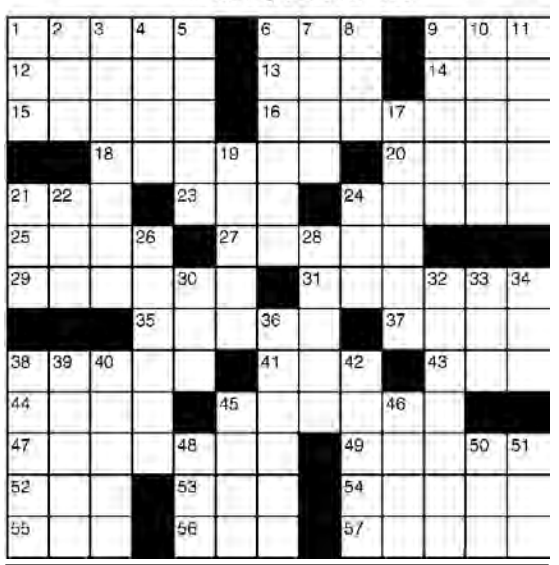
DOWN

1 Kanga's kid
2 Leb. neighbor
3 King Arthur's realm
4 Alike (Fr.)
5 Transmits
6 Contorts
7 Flat fee?
8 "A mouse!"
9 Peach — 10 Use elbow grease on
11 Must, jocularly
17 Fragrant wood
19 Merits
21 Sea, to Henri
22 Notable time
24 EMT's skill
26 Intoxicated
28 Puzzles
30 Ninny
32 Secondary story
33 Alter —
34 Trio after Q
36 Left
38 Vaults
39 Property claims
40 Upright
42 Layered rock
45 U2 lead singer
46 Rhyming tributes
48 Trail the pack
50 Chemical suffix
51 "The Lovebirds" star Issa

Solution time: 25 mins.

W	A	C	O		A	N	N		T	A	C	T
I	M	O	P		R	O	O		A	R	I	E
F	A	K	E		M	B	A		T	M	A	N
I	B	E	R	I	A		H	O	T	R	O	D
			A	D	M			R	O	E		
O	A	R	S		E	N	C	L	O	S	E	D
U	N	I			N	E	A			T	M	I
R	E	G	I	S	T	E	R		E	S	P	N
		H	M	O			A	B	E			
R	O	T	A	T	E		L	O	Y	O	L	A
A	N	A	G		T	R	A		O	L	A	Y
M	I	R	E		O	E	R		R	E	N	E
A	T	M	S		N	O	M		E	G	G	S

Yesterday's answer 9-20



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Phillip Phillips, 34; Kristen Johnston, 57; Gary Cole, 68; Sophia Loren, 90.

Happy Birthday: Pay attention to your body and surroundings, and you'll gain insight into how you can improve your health and lifestyle. Eliminate what's not working for you, replace outdated techniques with a pumped-up version of what you need to enrich your life, and raise your awareness of how to get the most out of what you have going for you. Intelligent thoughts and actions will equal positive reactions. Your numbers are 6, 10, 23, 27, 31, 40, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Consider how best to utilize your skills without jeopardizing your relationships, lifestyle or health. A realignment that helps balance work and playtime will do wonders for your state of mind and help you pursue pastimes that bring you joy. Create opportunities and take responsibility for your happiness. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Change your speed and focus, and forge into the future intent on finishing what you start. Focus on important matters and pass along insignificant jobs to others. Stop spinning your wheels and concentrate on the here and now and what matters most. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Consider the big picture, but tunnel vision will be in your best interest when it comes time to act. Refuse to let anyone lead you astray or push you out of your comfort zone. Recognize what you do best and apply your specialty where it will bring the highest return. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Incorporate the old with the new. It's good to rely on what's foolproof, but if you want to make a statement and draw support, implementing current and newfangled ideas will seal the deal. Don't take a risk with your health or cash. Use wisdom to advance. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Consider the possibilities before you start something new. Change can be exciting, but a wrong move can be costly. Don't accept secondhand information; see for yourself, weigh the pros and cons, and make an educated decision that appeases your comfort and lowers your stress. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Present your intentions to the universe and make your dreams come true. If you can find an intelligent way to manifest your desires, you will attract what and who you need to complete your mission. Don't second-guess yourself; trust and believe in your abilities. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* When one door closes and another opens, ask why and what you may have done differently. Learn from your experience; it will help you rewrite mistakes and build confidence and ensure you move forward with a positive attitude and the ability to achieve the success you desire. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Good things are within reach. All you need is to embrace opportunity, challenge yourself and pursue your dreams with momentum and clarity. Share your dialogue with people heading in a similar direction, and you'll form a solid bond with people who will strengthen your plans. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Clear up any lingering problems quickly before you start something new. Refrain from letting anyone stand in your way or play emotional mind games that slow you down or cost you financially or emotionally. Use your charm and intelligence to outsmart anyone who is challenging you. Choose peace over discord. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Shout out to those you can rely on to pick up the slack and help you achieve your objective. Work in unison with others, and you'll find your way into a leadership position. Trust your judgment and ability to coordinate meticulously. Be the bright light and affirmative influence. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Redesign your plans and surroundings to suit your needs. Address financial and medical issues, adjust your routine to reduce stress and gain insight into what you want by bringing comfort and happiness. Make choices that evoke stronger bonds with the ones you love. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Say no to excessive behavior, overspending and those trying to lead you in a direction that isn't in your best interest. Be true to yourself and do what brings you peace of mind. An activity that challenges you mentally or physically will take your mind away from your worries. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are dedicated, insightful and generous. You are responsive and dominant.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2	9			3				7
6		7		1		5		8
		1	9					4
				8			5	
4	2				3	9		
7		2			1		8	
	1		3	6			9	
	6	9			5		4	

Difficulty: ★★★★ 9/20

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	6	3	2	9	1	5	8	7
5	9	8	4	3	7	2	1	6
1	2	7	6	5	8	4	3	9
9	7	2	8	1	4	6	5	3
3	4	6	9	2	5	1	7	8
8	5	1	3	7	6	9	2	4
6	3	5	1	8	9	7	4	2
7	8	4	5	6	2	3	9	1
2	1	9	7	4	3	8	6	5

Difficulty: ★★★ 9/19

©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

IT'S A LITTLE FUZZY Solution: 4 letters

S	R	E	H	T	A	E	F	L	O	S	S	Y	S	B
O	U	N	S	U	R	E	S	E	L	A	G	E	L	A
F	N	T	E	N	N	I	S	B	A	L	L	A	I	T
T	D	S	L	M	A	C	A	Ⓟ	Ⓛ	Ⓐ	Ⓝ	W	P	H
N	E	E	B	I	Y	K	R	U	M	K	S	M	P	M
E	R	V	A	S	T	A	C	B	E	C	E	I	E	A
M	S	E	T	T	O	O	F	T	O	S	D	S	R	T
E	T	L	S	Y	A	L	N	R	S	R	O	L	S	S
C	A	V	N	T	U	E	E	A	I	C	G	E	H	R
N	N	E	U	F	M	P	G	B	O	N	S	A	A	E
U	D	T	F	E	O	E	O	W	O	V	G	D	Z	T
O	I	Y	E	R	U	C	S	B	O	G	L	E	Y	A
N	N	R	T	F	R	I	Z	Z	Y	K	O	M	S	E
N	G	I	B	B	E	R	I	S	H	R	E	V	A	W
A	M	B	I	G	U	O	U	S	H	C	E	E	P	S

© 2024 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 9/20

Agreement, Alpaca, Ambiguous, Announcement, Bath Mat, Bird, Blanket, Cats, Coat, Cows, Dogs, Feathers, Flossy, Fluffy, Fringe, Frizzy, Gibberish, Hazy, Lamb, Legalese, Message, Mislead, Misty, Murky, Obscure, Report, Score, Shaggy, Slippers, Smoky, Soft, Speech, Sweater, Tennis Ball, Understanding, Unstable, Unsure, Velvety, Vest, Vow, Waver

Yesterday's Answer: Routine

For **WONDERWORD** apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

Diamondbacks avoid Rockies sweep

DENVER (AP)—Corbin Carroll hit two home runs for his third multi-homer game of the year, Eduardo Rodriguez struck out a season-high 11 and the Arizona Diamondbacks beat the Colorado Rockies 9-4 on Wednesday to avert a series sweep.

Randal Grichuk also homered and doubled, Christian Walker drove in a pair of runs with a single and a sacrifice fly, and Pavin Smith had a run-scoring double in the Diamondbacks' three-run ninth inning.

The defending National League champion, Arizona (84-68) matched last year's total for wins and moved a half-game in front of the New York Mets for the second of three NL wild cards. The Mets were set to play Washington on Wednesday night.



AP

Arizona Diamondbacks relief pitcher Joe Mantiply works against the Colorado Rockies in the ninth inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2024, in Denver.

ATHLETICS 5, CUBS 3

CHICAGO (AP)—Tyler Soderstrom homered and was 2 for 4 and Zack Gelof hit a double to take the lead in the eighth as Oakland beat the Chicago, leading the Milwaukee Brewers to become the first major league team to earn a spot in the playoffs, on Wednesday.

Chicago's loss clinches a playoff berth for the Brewers, who won the National League Central division for the third time in four years.

The 22-year-old Soderstrom scored two runs and batted in two more to help Oakland to a series victory over the Cubs. Brent Rooker was 2 for 3 with an RBI and a pair of walks.

Tyler Ferguson (4-2) picked up the win after throwing a hitless seventh inning, and Michel Otañez struck out two in the eighth. Mason Miller earned his 27th save of the year.

ANGELS 4, WHITE SOX 3, 13 INNINGS

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Eric Wagaman scored with one out in the 13th inning when Jordyn Adams' grounder deflected off the glove of third baseman Miguel Vargas, and Los Angeles dealt the Chicago White Sox their 117th loss.

Instead of winning consecutive series for the first time in four months, the White Sox tied the 1916 Philadelphia Athletics for the third most losses since 1900.

Chicago (36-117) needs to go 7-2 in its final nine games to avoid the post-1900 record of 120 losses by the 1962 expansion New York Mets.

The 2003 Detroit Tigers hold the American League mark with 119 losses.

PADRES 4, ASTROS 0

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Dylan Cease pitched brilliantly into the ninth inning and Manny Machado, Fernando Tatis Jr. and Donovan Solano hit consecutive homers in the eighth for San Diego, who beat the AL West-leading Houston.

Machado homered twice for the Padres, who won two of three against the Astros and stayed two games ahead of Arizona for the first NL wild card. The Astros came in with a five-game division lead over Seattle.

Cease (14-11), who threw his first career no-hitter on July 25 at Washington, took a one-hitter into the ninth before Mauricio Dubón beat out an infield single to shortstop. Cease struck out Jake Meyers but then shortstop Xander Bogaerts booted Jose Altuve's grounder for an error that allowed Dubón to take third, and that was it for the right-hander after 103 pitches.

GIANTS 5, ORIOLES 3

BALTIMORE (AP)—Mike Yastrzemski homered on the game's first pitch, Michael Conforto also hit a solo shot and San Francisco beat Baltimore.

Baltimore has lost eight of 10 to fall 4 1/2 games behind the first-place Yankees in the AL East, pending New York's late matchup with Seattle. Before their current skid, the Orioles held a half-game lead.

For the second time in two nights, Yastrzemski put the Orioles in an immediate hole with a leadoff homer. On Tuesday, he did it on the second pitch. In this one, he hit Dean Kremer's initial offering into the right-field seats.

Baltimore took a 2-1 lead in the third inning, but the Giants answered with a three-run fourth highlighted by a sequence that exemplified the Orioles' shortcomings of late. With the bases loaded and no outs, Grant McCoy hit a tapper in front of the plate.

BRAVES 7, REDS 1

CINCINNATI (AP)—Marcell Ozuna homered, Gio Urshela drove in three runs and Spencer Schwellenbach pitched six innings of one-run ball as Atlanta beat Cincinnati.

The win allowed the Braves to stay within two games of the Mets for the final National League wild card spot.

Ozuna greeted Tony Santillan (2-3) with his 38th home run of the season in the seventh, a solo shot that broke a 1-1 tie. The blast ended Ozuna's home run drought at 26 games and his RBI drought at 19 games. Urshela drove in two runs with a bases loaded single, pushing the lead to 4-1.

In the eighth, Michael Harris II homered and Ozuna doubled to knock in Eli White and record his 100th RBI of the season.

DODGERS 8, MARLINS 4

MIAMI (AP)—Shohei Ohtani stole his 49th base and moved closer to becoming the first player in major league history with 50 homers and 50 steals in a season as Los Angeles beat Miami.

Ohtani, who began the day two shy of each mark, singled to lead off the game then swiped second.

Tommy Edman hit his sixth homer in the last eight games for the NL West-leading Dodgers, who remained 3 1/2 games ahead of second-place San Diego. Enrique Hernández and Will Smith also went deep and Freddie Freeman had three hits.

Dodgers starter Landon Knack (3-4) gave up two hits over five scoreless innings. He walked two and struck out seven.

Smith gave Los Angeles an early lead with his solo homer in the second. He drove a fastball from Miami starter Ryan Weathers over the wall in left for his 19th homer.

GUARDIANS 5, TWINS 4, 10 INNINGS

CLEVELAND (AP)—Brayan Rocchio singled in Andrés Giménez with the winning run as the AL Central-leading Cleveland scored three times in the 10th inning to beat Minnesota, reducing their magic number for clinching a playoff berth to one.

Kyle Manzardo and Will Brennan had RBI singles off Ronny Henriquez (1-1) before Michael Tonkin entered and gave up Rocchio's second career walk-off hit, a chopper to right through a drawn-in infield.

Josh Naylor hit a pair of solo homers and scored three times for Cleveland, which leads the division by 5 1/2 games over Kansas City. Naylor's first shot was a 445-foot rocket to right-center, giving him his first 30-homer season.

Carlos Correa had a two-run single off Hunter Gaddis (5-3) that gave the Twins a 4-2 lead in the top of the 10th. Correa finished with four RBIs and extended his hitting streak to 16 games, matching his career high with Houston in 2019.

RED SOX 2, RAYS 1

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Trevor Story homered in the sixth inning then scored the winning run on Jarren Duran's single in the eighth as Boston beat the Tampa Bay.

Story opened the eighth with a comebacker single off Drew Rasmussen (0-2). After stealing second and third, he scored when Duran grounded his hit to right past a drawn-in infield.

Justin Slaten (6-2) worked out of a first-and-third, no-out jam in the seventh for the win and Kenley Jansen, the fifth Red Sox reliever, worked the ninth for his 27th save in 31 chances.

METS 10, NATIONALS 0

NEW YORK (AP)—Jose Quintana extended his scoreless streak to a career-high 22 2/3 innings and Brandon Nimmo's three-run homer capped a nine-run fourth as New York beat the Washington to finish a three-game sweep.

Luisangel Acuña homered again for the Mets (84-68), who moved a season-high 16 games above .500 and stayed tied with Arizona for the second of three NL wild cards—two games ahead of Atlanta for the league's last playoff spot.

Quintana (10-9) allowed two hits, walked two and struck out four in seven innings to complete his season-long dominance of the Nationals, whom he blanked over 21 innings in three starts.

TIGERS 4, ROYALS 2

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Tarik Skubal allowed three hits over five innings for his 17th win and Detroit beat Kansas City to move within a half game of a playoff spot with 10 games remaining.

Riley Greene hit a go-ahead home run as the Tigers (80-73) won their fourth straight and ninth in the last 11 games. With the series sweep, Detroit won for the 25th time in 35 games to move within a half game of Minnesota (80-72) for the third AL wild-card spot.

Skubal (17-4), who has won his last five decisions, made his case for the AL Cy Young Award stronger by matching Atlanta's Chris Sale for the major league lead in wins and lowered his AL-leading earned run average to 2.48. He walked one and struck out seven.

RANGERS 2, BLUE JAYS 0

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Adolis García hit a two-run home run in the sixth inning, Cody Bradford pitched seven strong innings after the worst start of his career, and Texas beat Toronto.

García launched a first-pitch sinker over the left-field wall off Toronto starter Bowden Francis (8-5) after Wyatt Langford singled.

Bradford (6-3) allowed five hits and no walks while striking out six.

He was perfect through four innings before Alejandro Kirk opened the fifth with a smash back to the mound that caromed off Bradford's left foot and rolled into right field for a single. It extended Kirk's hitting streak to a career-high 12 games.

BREWERS 2, PHILLIES 1

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Jake Bauers hit an RBI single in the ninth inning and Milwaukee beat Philadelphia to prevent the Phillies from securing a playoff berth.

Bauers' single off Phillies closer Carlos Estévez (4-5) scored Jackson Chourio, who had tripled.

Milwaukee closer Devin Williams (1-0) struck out Alec Bohm, Bryson Stott and Brandon Marsh in order in the ninth.

Milwaukee's Freddy Peralta, making his career-high 31st start of the season, allowed one run on two hits in five innings, striking out nine and walking two.

CARDINALS 10, PIRATES 5

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Jordan Walker hit a bases-loaded double to highlight a six-run seventh inning, lifting Cardinals to a victory over Pittsburgh.

Brendan Donovan hit a two-run homer and Masyn Winn added a solo homer. Nolan Arenado drove in a run, scored twice, had three hits and walked twice.

Billy Cook, who was called up Sept. 8, hit his first big league homer—a three-run blast—for the Pirates, who acquired him from the Orioles at the trade deadline.

YANKEES 2, MARINERS 1, 10 INNINGS

SEATTLE (AP)—Anthony Rizzo hit a tiebreaking double in the 10th inning and drove in both runs for New York as the Yankees clinched a playoff spot with a win over Seattle.

Rizzo lined the first pitch of the inning from Mariners reliever Collin Snider (3-4) down the right-field line to score automatic runner Jasson Domínguez from second base.

The Yankees managed only two hits against Mariners starter Bryce Miller, but scored two runs produced by Rizzo, who gave them an early lead with a run-scoring single in the second for his first RBI since Sept. 2.

Miller struck out eight over six innings while issuing four walks (one intentional). After a bumpy first few innings, Miller worked out of a bases-loaded jam in the third and retired the final 10 hitters he faced.

Philly mayor strikes deal with 76ers to build new arena downtown

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The Philadelphia 76ers have a new teammate in their bid to build a new $1.3 billion arena downtown.

Mayor Cherelle Parker announced Wednesday that she has forged a deal with team owners to keep the NBA franchise in town and will send it to city council. The decision comes despite objections from nearby Chinatown residents and just weeks after New Jersey's governor offered $400 million in tax breaks to build the site across the river in Camden.

"This is an historic agreement," Parker said in a video posted on the social platform X. "I wholeheartedly believe this is the right deal for the people of Philadelphia. To the people of Chinatown, please know that I hear you. We have the best Chinatown in the United States, and I am committed to working together to support it."

Team owners say their planned 76 Place would improve a struggling retail corridor near City Hall and capitalize on the city's public transit. They have vowed not to renew the lease on their current home, a circa 1996 arena in the city's South Philadelphia sports complex, when their lease runs out in 2031.



AP

A man walks through the Chinatown neighborhood of Philadelphia, Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2024.

The team now rents the arena from Comcast Spectacor, which also owns the Philadelphia Flyers of the NHL, who also play there. Instead, the Sixers' owners want their own, more modern facility, one they could also rent out for concerts and other events.

Josh Harris, a managing partner of the ownership group, Harris Blitzer Sports & Entertainment, has said the Sixers will build a privately funded facility that "strengthens ties within the local community through investments that prioritize equity, inclusivity and accessibility."

On Wednesday, a spokesperson said the owners were grateful for Parker's support of their proposal "and look forward to advancing to the next steps with city council."

Chinatown activists who have felt the squeeze of development repeatedly since at least the 1990s had urged the mayor to reject the plan. They are only now getting some relief from a sunken expressway that cleaved their community in two in 1991, in the form of a $159 million grant to build a park over the six-lane highway and reconnect the area.

Parker, who inherited the 76ers issue when she took office in January, had promised to consider their input. Activists complained Wednesday that she ignored it. Some of them took to City Hall with homemade lanterns to "shine a light" on the potential consequences. They say the project will increase vehicle traffic in their pedestrian-friendly neighborhood and force vulnerable residents—older people, low-income families and new immigrants—out.

Debbie Wei, of the Save Chinatown Coalition, said the mayor alone should not decide "whether our community should live or die."

"This fight is far from over," she said in a statement. "We are going to fight this, and we are going to the mat. It's on."

Comcast Spectacor Chairman and CEO Daniel J. Hilferty said they will keep the door open for the 76ers as the plan unfolds while working with the Phillies to expand entertainment venues and jobs at the South Philadelphia complex.

"Either way, we always want what is best for Philadelphia," Hilferty said in a statement.

Wojnarowski leaving ESPN to become GM of St. Bonaventure men's basketball team

By JOHN WAWROW
AP SPORTS WRITER

ESPN NBA reporter Adrian Wojnarowski is retiring from broadcasting to return to his alma mater, St. Bonaventure, to take over the newly created position of general manager of the men's basketball program, the Atlantic 10 school announced Wednesday.

Wojnarowski will oversee a wide range of responsibilities while working alongside coach Mark Schmidt and his staff. His duties will include focusing on name, image and likeness opportunities, transfer portal management, recruiting and alumni player relationships.

"I'm thrilled and humbled to return to St. Bonaventure with an opportunity to serve the university," Wojnarowski said in a statement released by the school in Allegany, New York. "I'm hopeful to share with members of our community some best practices learned from the most successful franchises and minds in the NBA and committed to opening doors globally for our players both on and off the court."



AP

St. Bonaventure players huddle in the first half of a National Invitational Tournament basketball game on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, in Boulder, Colo.

Wojnarowski graduated from St. Bonaventure with a journalism degree in 1991 and received an honorary doctorate from the school in 2022. The 55-year-old has worked at ESPN since 2017, and his decision to retire came even while he was still under a contract he signed with the broadcaster in 2022.

Wojnarowski, who previously worked at Yahoo Sports and The Record of New Jersey, was a two-time APSE columnist of the year and was voted the National Sports Media Association's National Sportswriter of the year over a three-year span from 2017-19.

Schmidt described Wojnarowski's addition to his staff as a "home run," adding: "This move is critical to navigate the new landscape of college basketball in NIL, recruiting and retention."

St. Bonaventure is located amid the Allegany Mountains in the southwest corner of New York, about a 90-minute drive south of Buffalo.

The Catholic school, with an enrollment of about 2,000 students, is seeking to capitalize on Wojnarowski's name recognition, while following other programs that have created the role of GM in the NIL era. He is best known for breaking NBA news with what became known as "Woj Bombs" on social media.

"While we will miss his daily output, we completely understand his decision to make a lifestyle change and slow down a bit," ESPN chairman Jimmy Pitaro said in a statement. "We know he will continue to thrive in this next chapter, and he has our collective gratitude and support."

Bob Beretta, St. Bonaventure vice president and director of intercollegiate athletics, called Wojnarowski's addition an "incredible opportunity" for the school to tap in to his many basketball connections.

"At a time of tremendous turbulence within the intercollegiate athletics enterprise, we are making a strong statement that St. Bonaventure continues to be on the forefront of change," Beretta said. "The fact that the preeminent journalist in his field is willing to walk away from a lucrative media career to serve his alma mater in a support role is a testament to his love and passion for Bona."

Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle on Dec. 7



MVA

Cyclists take on the challenge of Hell of the Marianas 2023 on Dec. 2, 2023. Registration is now open at www.helloftheMarianas.com for the race–featuring 100K and 50K courses–which returns on Dec. 7, 2024, and is organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority and Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation.

The Hell of the Marianas, one of the toughest cycling events in the Pacific region, is set to return on Dec. 7, 2024, and registration is now open at www.hellofthemarianas.com. This grueling road race, held on the island of Saipan in the Marianas, attracts cyclists from around the world to take on the island's challenging terrain.

"The Marianas Visitors Authority is pleased to again join with the Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation in organizing this year's Hell of the Marianas," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "Last year was our first big international road race since the pandemic, and we had nearly 200 bikers from six countries and territories. This year we aim to grow our partnerships with international cycling clubs, online key-opinion-leaders, and our sponsors to bring a solid race and more exposure to cycling in the Marianas."

The Hell of the Marianas features a 100-kilometer course that winds its way through Saipan's hills, valleys, and scenic byways. Participants must navigate 4,900 feet of ascents, including steep climbs and fast descents, making it a true test of endurance and skill. The event is open to both amateur and professional riders.

"We are hoping to keep the success going after last year's event and looking to make this year's event our best yet," said president Vince Seman of the Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation. "

Prizes will be awarded to winners in various categories. Participants will also receive a race t-shirt and entry to the awards banquet.

The race has become an important part of Saipan's sporting and cultural scene and has helped raise awareness of the island's unique natural beauty and cultural heritage.

For more information, contact NMI Cycling Federation President Vince Seman at nmicycling@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Guam motorsports community secures home with budget bill signed into law

GUAM—In a significant victory for the Guam motorsports community, Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero signed the 2025 Fiscal Year Budget Bill No. 236-37 (COR) into Public Law 37-125 last week, which includes an amendment introduced by Democrat Senator Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas to secure a home for the Guam Motorsports Association in Yigo.

The amendment ensures the Chamorro Land Trust Commission negotiates a noncommercial lease with GMA for the property housing the raceway in Yigo and mandates that the negotiations for the lease on Lot 7161-R1 begin within 90 days of the law's enactment.

"The Yigo raceway has been a longtime hub for our local motorsports community," said San Nicolas, the sponsor of the amendment. "It has been the venue for our racing community, offering both a controlled environment and a place for families and fellow enthusiasts to gather and pursue their passions. I'm committed to restoring the raceway as a safe space for recreational activities and providing our motorsports enthusiasts with a place to call home."

Public Law 37-125 requires the CLTC to lease a portion of the property to GMA, allowing the continued operation on Lot 7161-R1 in Yigo to host races as well as various related outdoor events and support facilities, all of which have been central to the island's growing motorsports scene.

"The passage of this law guarantees that the raceway will continue to be a dedicated space for organized motorsports activities. I thank my legislative colleagues and Gov. Leon Guerrero for supporting this effort to keep our streets safe by providing a safe space for our racing community," San Nicolas concluded. ***(PR)***

MHS

From page 20

rors than GCA.

With Relucio and Zandueta in the MHS team are Cassie Regan, Sheira Dela Rosa, Jayme Vargas, Airianna Estrada, Ella Hall, Direnalyn Castro, Fiona Regan, Savita Sikkel, and Charlotte Amano.

The Lady Eagles with Kim are Mariana Angeles, Beatrice Fabre, Sofia Gomez, Eunji Hahn, Sarang Kim, L.J. Libut, Alyssa Omampo, Eliane Pagaduan, Eunice Pagaduan, JoAnella Yarofalir, and Dianna Zheng.

In other results that night, MHS II outlasted Kagman High School II in three tough sets, 17-21, 21-16, 15-11; MHS III silenced Saipan International School II, 21-7, 21-12; Saipan Southern High School II lost to Mount Carmel School II, 21-18, 21-12; KHS slipped past MCS, 21-17, 20-22, 15-8; and Agape Christian School beat SSHS also in three sets, 21-16, 15-21, 3-15.

Games are played every Tuesday and Thursday. The championship tournament is slated for Oct. 23-25.

Results of last night's games will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune.*

HOOPS

From page 20

back threes, plus 2 points under the basket and this allowed Hardt Eye some breathing room. Lucero then made some free throws, while Blue Haus tried to dig in for a rally.

However, Hardt Eye Clinic held on to win by 4 points as Blue Haus stumbled and couldn't get their shots in, while Hardt Eye's lead was enough to seal their trip to the finals.

The last semis game between J.T.M. and Blue Haus will be played tomorrow, Saturday, at 4pm at the Ada Gym.

The championship game between Hardt Eye and the winner of J.T.M. and Blue Haus will be played on Sunday at 2pm, also at the Ada Gym. Awarding of winners, the Mythical 5, and MVP will take place right after.

LATTE

From page 20

taliate and handed Latte the win.

In the first game of the season, Kanoa FC made light work of Paire FC, 8-0.

Kanoa's Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez, Aubrey White, and Ye Lynn Ha were a trio to be reckoned with on the pitch as they led the onslaught against Paire.

At the starting whistle, Kanoa already had a 1-0 advantage as Ayessa Tereyama found an opening in the first minute. Silence reigned after that, but Audrey Castro nipped the net for a 2-0 Kanoa lead.

Then, White, Chavez, and Ha went to work as they scored two goals each throughout the second half without a reply from Paire. In the end, eight goals whizzed past Paire's keeper and conceded, 0-8.

In the other A Division game that day, Shirley's FC and MP United FC ended in a scoreless draw, 0-0.

Results of the B Division were: Kanoa FC beat Shirley's FC 2, 3-0; Shirley's FC 1 pounced on Latte FC, 8-0; Paire FC slipped past Matansa FC, 2-1; and MP United FC Pink beat Matansa FC 2, 3-0.

In the DWL Masters Division, Kanoa FC and Shirley's FC were at a 0-0 stalemate, and Paire FC outscored Latte FC, 2-0.

Games are played every Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
z-New York	89	63	.586	–
Baltimore	84	68	.553	5
Boston	76	76	.500	13
Tampa Bay	74	78	.487	15
Toronto	72	80	.474	17
Central Division				
Cleveland	88	65	.575	–
Kansas City	82	71	.536	6
Minnesota	80	72	.526	7½
Detroit	80	73	.523	8
Chicago	36	117	.235	52
West Division				
Houston	82	70	.539	–
Seattle	77	75	.507	5
Texas	73	79	.480	9
Oakland	67	86	.438	15½
Los Angeles	62	90	.408	20

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division				
Philadelphia	91	61	.599	–
New York	84	68	.553	7
Atlanta	82	70	.539	9
Washington	68	84	.447	23
Miami	56	96	.368	35
Central Division				
x-Milwaukee	88	64	.579	–
Chicago	77	75	.507	11
St. Louis	77	75	.507	11
Cincinnati	74	79	.484	14½
Pittsburgh	71	81	.467	17
West Division				
Los Angeles	90	62	.592	–
San Diego	87	66	.569	3½
Arizona	84	68	.553	6
San Francisco	74	78	.487	16
Colorado	59	94	.386	31½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





Diamondbacks avoid Rockies sweep.

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle on Dec. 7.

PAGE 19



MHS topples GCA in girls v-ball start

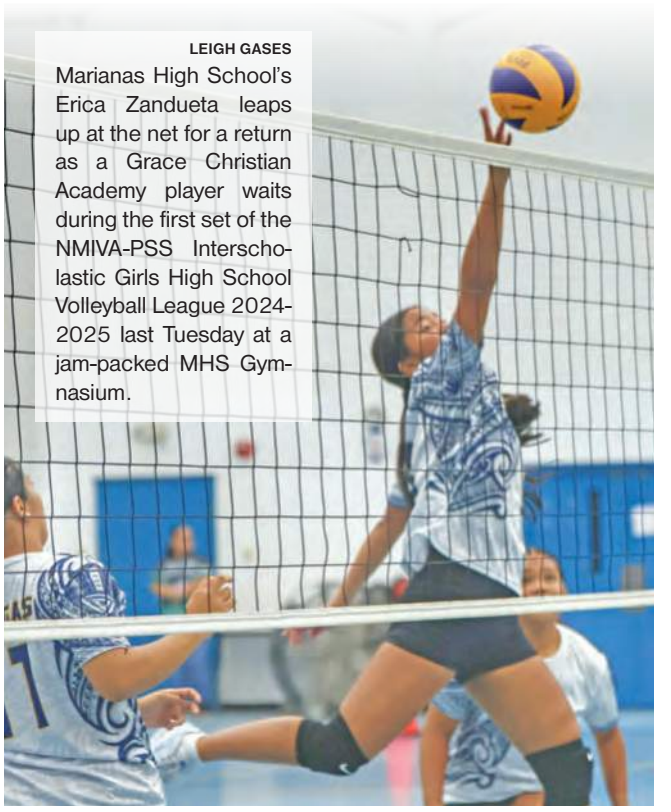
LEIGH GASES

Marianas High School's Airianna Estrada goes for an overhead serve during the first set of their match against Grace Christian Academy of the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2024-2025 last Tuesday at a jam-packed MHS Gymnasium.



By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas High School Lady Dolphins started the season on a high note as they brought down the defending champions Grace Christian Academy from their pedestal in three thrilling sets of the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2024-2025 last Tuesday at a jam-packed MHS Gymnasium.



LEIGH GASES

Marianas High School's Erica Zandueta leaps up at the net for a return as a Grace Christian Academy player waits during the first set of the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2024-2025 last Tuesday at a jam-packed MHS Gymnasium.

The seven-time champions GCA have a new look this season as they are now coached by Joe Saures after the retirement of long-time coach Cesar Libut. The team also has new recruits, while their star player Azriel Fatialofa has moved to Saipan Southern High School.

So, it was evident from the first serve that the Lady Dolphins—last season's runner-up—had a hunger that they looked to satiate. They dominated the first set, 21-16, as the Lady Eagles looked for their rhythm but struggled with the new dynamic.

MHS' hard-hitters Rizza Relucio and Erica Zandueta led the squad through the first set with ease, as GCA fell quickly, 5-10. GCA tried to get back into it with great service by Tae Hee Kim, but they were still short, 6-13. MHS then took it all the way before the Lady Eagles could really get going.

But the Lady Eagles found their groove in the second set, 21-13, and forced a tie-breaker—which was the fourth game that went to three sets in the league's opening night.

Back-and-forth action made it anyone's game, but MHS prevailed, 15-10, as they came out hitting with more aggressiveness and made fewer er-

See MHS on Page 19

Latte FC, Kanoa FC start Dove league strong

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Latte Football Club and Kanoa Football Club started the 2024 Fall Dove Women's League A Division strong at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Sunday.

Latte FC put their best foot forward and won over MP United FC Blue, 3-1.

Khristelle Itaas was the difference-maker in the game as she continued to bring her leadership and spunk on the pitch. Although MP United Blue broke the ice first in the eighth minute, Latte tied it up, 1-1, in the 17th from a goal by Itaas.

The match dragged on without a peep from both sides until Maria Fathangin put Latte up, 2-1 in the 40th minute. Then, Itaas broke the ceiling as she scored the third goal 10 minutes later for a 3-1 game.

MP United Blue failed to re-

See LATTE on Page 19



NMIFA

Latte Football Club's Khristelle Itaas, center, goes up against an MP United FC Blue player during their first match in the 2024 Fall Dove Women's League A Division at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Sunday.

Hoops finals in sight for Hardt Eye

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hardt Eye Clinic is the team to beat in the Ali'i Inc./Madflex Sports Summer Youth Basketball Tour 2024 Season 1 as they were the first team to reach the finals last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Hardt Eye Clinic won in a close matchup over Blue Haus, 82-78.

Hardt Eye Clinic's leading scorers Jezzpher Navarro, Christian Lucero, and Derek Tenorio went head-to-head with a tough Blue Haus team led by Dane Tibayan, Onick Ragbonshe, and Ibrahim Ibrahola.

It was a close matchup as they ended the second half, 32-30, in favor of Hardt Eye Clinic. The second half saw an even more intense level of play as both teams wanted to secure the first finals spot of the inaugural league.

But when it came down to it, Tenorio put up back-to-

See HOOPS on Page 19



LEIGH GASES

File photo shows a Blue Haus player going for a jumper as he's guarded by a Win Pacific Corp. player during the Ali'i Inc./Madflex Sports Summer Youth Basketball Tour 2024 Season 1 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.